



Environmental Appraisal Report

Woolfords Wind Farm - Tip Height Increase

Annex 5-1-1: Detailed Viewpoint Assessment

Woolfords Wind Energy Ltd

wind2

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Version	Date	Reason
1.1	May 2026	Original Issue
2.0	June 2026	Final Draft



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1. Detailed Viewpoint Assessments

Viewpoint: 1	
Baseline Conditions	
Viewpoint Location: A704/A706 Junction	
Grid Reference: 295531 658249	Figure Number: 5-5, 5-18
Distance to Proposed Development: 3.41km	View Direction: 103° T2
Landscape Character Type: 269 Upland Fringes - Lothians	Landscape Designation: none
Context: This viewpoint lies to the north-west of the Proposed Development, immediately to the north-east of the junction of the A704 and A706. It provides short range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the oblique views experienced by road users. Similar views would be possible from a section of road approximately 250 m long; elsewhere forest plantations would screen the Proposed Development from view.	
Current View: Beyond the road and post and wire fencing, the view to the south-east is across gently undulating rough grazing, which rises towards forest plantations that form much of the skyline in the middle distance. One of the nearby Tormywheel wind turbines draws the eye near the centre of the view and another is visible further to the right. A relatively prominent mobile phone mast lies on the skyline to the right of this. Longhill Burn turbines are prominent to the left of the view, Pates Hill, Pearie Law and Harburnhead wind farms are screened by forest plantations. The view south-east forms part of an open view of medium length, some 160° in extent, from north-east round to south-west. Two further Tormywheel wind turbines can be seen to the left of the A706 looking south. Forest plantations and mixed woodland belts beside the A704 and A706 prevent views in other directions, although blades of three nearby Tormywheel wind turbines are evident moving behind the adjacent tree belts to the west and north. There is a longer framed view to the north-east and a pylon line crosses the view to the east.	
Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View Road users: Road users are unlikely to be travelling for the view – medium susceptibility. View not promoted; large number of receptors – medium-high value.	
Assessment of predicted effects	
Description of changes: During operation, the blade tips of two turbines would be visible, moving above the forest plantations on the skyline, on either side of the closest Tormywheel tower and to the right of Longhill Burn wind farm, to which the Proposed Development would seem to form an extension. Blades would be backlit for more of the time, appearing dark against the sky and occupying some 18 degrees of the view. Cranes would be visible for a short time but otherwise construction activities would be screened from view.	
Landscape Effects: Operation: The changes would be evident, adding very slightly to the perception of wind farms within this landscape, but would not otherwise affect any landscape characteristics. The Proposed Development would result in little perceptible change and the magnitude of effect is predicted to be negligible. Construction: The short-term appearance of cranes would give rise to a negligible magnitude of landscape effect.	
Visual Effects: Operation: The Proposed Development would be evident, but would bring about a minor change to the view. It would fit the existing pattern of turbines established by Longhill Burn and would not affect the longest part of this view, which is towards the north-east. Taking into account the limited proportion of the view affected, the short time that this oblique view would be evident to road users and the subtle nature of the changes, the magnitude of visual effect is predicted to be small-negligible.	

Viewpoint: 1	
Construction: Crane activity would be evident for a short time and is predicted to give rise to a negligible magnitude of visual effect.	
Degree of Visual Effects	
Operational Effects:	Road Users: Moderate-minor
Construction Effects:	Road Users: Minor
Cumulative effects:	
Existing and consented developments: Simultaneous visibility: In addition to Longhill Burn and Tormywheel wind farms, Heathland resubmission would be visible within the 90 degree view. Some Pearie Law extension turbines may be visible behind those of Longhill Burn. Successive visibility: Looking south, Heathland resubmission wind turbines would be visible amongst those of Tormywheel. Other wind farms would be screened from view by mixed woodland and forest plantations. Conclusions: Landscape: The Proposed Development would introduce additional blade tips into a landscape with several more prominent wind turbines. The Proposed Development would appear to form part of Longhill Burn, being located within a similar landscape context. It is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The magnitude of cumulative effect is predicted to be negligible. Visual: The Proposed Development would be of similar scale, proportion and rotation speed to Longhill Burn, occupying the same part of this wide view. It would not bring turbines closer to the viewer. The magnitude of cumulative visual effect is predicted to be negligible.	
Degree of cumulative visual effects:	Road Users: Minor
Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed Development:	
The difference in turbine size between those of the Proposed Development and the Consented Development would not be apparent from this viewpoint and the Proposed Development is not considered to cause a material change to the level of effect.	

Viewpoint: 2	
Baseline Conditions	
Viewpoint Location: Minor road near Haywood and Bughtknowes	
Grid Reference: 297267 655166	Figure Number: 5-6, 5-19
Distance to Proposed Development: 2.19km	View Direction: 35.8° (T2)
Landscape Character Type: 213 Plateau Moorlands - Glasgow & Clyde Valley	Landscape Designation: none
Context: This viewpoint lies to the south-west of the Proposed Development on a quiet, winding minor road which connects Auchengray and Wilsontown. It provides short range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the views experienced from several dwellings that lie along the road and by road users. Similar, intermittent views would be possible from a section of road approximately 1km long, where the roadside vegetation allows.	
Current View: Beyond the road and adjacent post and wire fence and hedgerow, the view north-east is across sloping pastures, enclosed by post and wire fences, with some broken stone dykes, towards a skyline in the middle distance that is mostly formed by clumps of broadleaved trees and forest plantations. Blade tips of some of the Harburnhead turbines are visible above the skyline between tree clumps and there is a glimpse of the	

Viewpoint: 2

Pentland Hills to the right of this. A nearby power line on timber poles crosses the view, blade tips of Longhill Burn and a small single wind turbine at Mountainblaw Farm is visible between the tree clumps on the skyline. To the south-east, buildings and tree clumps at Haywood frame views of the Muirhall wind turbines beyond, backed by distant hills. Rising ground and tree clumps curtail views to the south and west, with a small wind turbine at Stobwood Farm, visible nearby on the skyline. There are longer views north-west towards Armadale, framed by rising ground to the left and buildings and tree clumps at Bugthknowes and Springfield on the right. Another small single wind turbine is visible above trees at Upper Haywood.

Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View**Residents**

Views from dwellings – high susceptibility.

View not widely promoted; small number of receptors – medium value.

Road users:

Road users are unlikely to be travelling for the view – medium susceptibility.

View not widely promoted; small number of receptors – low-medium value.

Assessment of predicted effects**Description of changes:**

During operation, the hubs and blades of all three turbines would be visible above the wooded skyline to the left of the Harburnhead blade tips. The Proposed Development would occupy approximately nine degrees of the view and blade tips would be predominantly front-lit. Slight blade overlap would be evident, and blades of T2 would flick out from behind intervening woodland.

Cranes would be visible for a short period but ground level construction activity is unlikely to be evident.

Landscape Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would adversely affect the scale of the tree blocks on the skyline and the rural character. The changes would be noticeable, but within a landscape that already contains turbines of a similar scale.

The magnitude of effect is predicted to be medium.

Construction:

Crane activity is predicted to result in a short-term, small-medium magnitude of landscape effect.

Visual Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would be more prominent than Longhill Burn and blades flicking above trees would increase the effect slightly. It would not affect the longer views towards the hills and would occupy a relatively small part of this wide view. The magnitude of effect is predicted to be medium-large for residents with direct views and medium for road users.

Construction:

Crane activity would be evident for a short time and is predicted to give rise to a medium magnitude of visual effect for residents and small-medium for road users.

Degree of Visual Effects

Operational Effects:	Residents: Moderate-major Road Users: Moderate
Construction Effects:	Residents: Moderate Road Users: Moderate-minor

Cumulative effects:**Existing and consented developments:****Simultaneous visibility:**

Hubs and tips of some Heathland resubmission turbines would be visible above the wooded skyline to the left of the Proposed Development. Pearie Law extension would be visible to the left of Harburnhead, and to the right of the Proposed Development. The single wind turbine at Burnfoot Poultry Farm would be visible above

Viewpoint: 2

woodland to the right of the 90 degree view.

Successive visibility:

Haywood Farm extension single wind turbine is visible amongst trees on the skyline to the north-west amongst the remaining Heathland resubmission turbines

Conclusions:**Landscape:**

The Proposed Development would introduce three turbines into a landscape backdrop containing several wind farms. The Proposed Development would appear to form an extension to Longhill Burn and Heathland resubmission, being of similar typology and located within a similar landscape context, which would reduce the cumulative effect on this landscape. The change would be noticeable but It is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The magnitude of cumulative effect is predicted to be small-medium.

Visual:

The Proposed Development would not contrast in terms of scale, proportion or rotation speed with the adjacent turbines and would occupy a similar part of this wide view, well away from the focus, towards distant hills. The Proposed Development would bring turbines slightly closer to the observer. The magnitude of cumulative visual effect is predicted to be small-medium.

Degree of cumulative visual effects :**Residents:**

Moderate

Road Users:

Moderate-minor

Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed Development:

The increase in size of the turbines of the Proposed Development would be evident, causing a slightly greater magnitude of visual effect during construction and operation when compared to the Consented Development. This would not be sufficient to affect the overall degree of visual effect

Viewpoint: 3**Baseline Conditions**

Viewpoint Location: A71 east of Breich

Grid Reference: 296766 660958

Figure Number: 5-7, 5-20

Distance to Proposed Development: 3.67km

View Direction: 162.9° (T2)

Landscape Character Type: 273 Lowland Plateaux - Lothians

Landscape Designation: none

Context:

This viewpoint lies to the north-west of the Proposed Development on a fast, busy section of the A71, to the east of Breich.

It provides short range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the oblique views experienced by road users. Similar, intermittent views would be possible from a section of road approximately 2.3km long, where the roadside vegetation allows.

Current View:

Beyond the post and wire fence and foreground of rough grassland with widely spaced forest trees, the view south-east is across pastures, which rise gently towards a skyline formed by forest plantations. Several post and wire fences, a broken stone dyke and a power line on timber poles cross the view. A pylon line can be seen above the trees on the skyline, with some of the Pates Hill wind turbines evident amongst the trees to the left of the view, where there is a glimpse of the Pentland Hills. Longhill Burn turbines are prominent to the centre of the view.

Views in other directions are generally of medium length, across pastures towards a skyline formed by woodland and forest plantations, although there is a slightly longer view to the west. Tormywheel wind turbines are obvious above trees to the south-west. To the north, the rail line is visible amongst rail-side woodland, with two nearby single wind turbines prominent in the foreground. Harburnhead and Pearie Law wind farms can be seen amongst trees on the skyline to the east.

Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View

Viewpoint: 3**Road users:**

Road users are unlikely to be travelling for the view – medium susceptibility.
View not promoted; large number of receptors – medium-high value.

Assessment of predicted effects**Description of changes:**

During operation, the blade tips of T1 and T2 would be visible, moving above the forest plantations on the skyline amongst Longhill Burn and to the right of those of Pates Hill. The turbine blades would be backlit for more of the time, appearing dark against the sky and occupying some eight degrees of the view. They would overlap with those of Longhill Burn, which will appear much more prominent in the foreground on either side of the Proposed Development.

Cranes may be visible for a short time, but otherwise construction activities would not be evident.

Landscape Effects:**Operation:**

The changes would be evident, adding very slightly to the perception of wind farms within this landscape, but would not otherwise affect any landscape characteristics.

The Proposed Development would result in little perceptible change to the landscape and the magnitude of effect is predicted to be small-negligible.

Construction:

The short-term appearance of cranes would give rise to a negligible magnitude of landscape effect.

Visual Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would occupy the same part of this wide view as Longhill Burn. It would fit the existing pattern of turbines established by Pates Hill and would not affect the longest parts of this view, towards the east and west. Blade overlap with Longhill Burn would increase the potential visual confusion slightly. The Proposed Development would be evident, but would bring about a minor change to the view.

Taking into account the limited proportion of the view affected and the subtle nature of the changes, the magnitude of visual effect is predicted to be small-negligible.

Construction:

Crane activity would be evident for a short time and is predicted to give rise to a negligible magnitude of visual effect.

Degree of Visual Effects**Operational Effects:****Road Users:**

Moderate-minor

Construction Effects:**Road Users:**

Minor

Cumulative effects:**Existing and consented developments:****Simultaneous visibility:**

In addition to the operational Pates Hill and Longhill Burn wind turbines, several of the Heathland resubmission wind turbines would be evident above the forest plantations on the skyline to the right of the Proposed Development and Pearie Law extension would appear between Harburnhead and Pates Hill to the left of the 90 degree view.

Successive visibility:

Tormywheel extension turbines would be visible amongst Tormywheel, and the single wind turbine at Blackhill would be visible within the longer view to the south-west. Some of the Camilty resubmission wind turbines may be visible within the long view to the east. Woodland and forest belts would screen any other consented developments from view.

Conclusions:**Landscape:**

The Proposed Development would introduce additional blade tips into a landscape with several more prominent wind turbines. It would appear to form part of the developing cluster of wind farms, being located within a similar landscape context. It is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The magnitude of cumulative effect is predicted to be negligible.

Visual:

Viewpoint: 3

The difference in scale, proportion and rotation speed to adjacent wind farms would be hard to discern, as so little of the turbine blades would be seen. The Proposed Development would not bring turbines closer to the viewer. It would be apparent but bring about a very minor change in the view. The magnitude of cumulative visual effect is predicted to be negligible.

Degree of cumulative visual effects:**Road Users:**

Minor

Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed Development:

The difference in turbine size between those of the Proposed Development and the Consented Development would not be apparent from this viewpoint and the Proposed Development is not considered to cause a material change to the level of effect.

Viewpoint: 4**Baseline Conditions**

Viewpoint Location: Minor road at Woolfords Cottages

Grid Reference: 300457 656774

Figure Number: 5-8, 5-21

Distance to Proposed Development: 1.70km

View Direction: 288.2° (T2)

Landscape Character Type: 201 Plateau Farmland - Glasgow & Clyde Valley

Landscape Designation: none

Context:

This viewpoint lies on a relatively busy minor road as it crosses the rail line, on the southern edge of the small settlement of Woolfords and to the south-east of the Proposed Development.

It provides short range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the views experienced by several residents and road users. Similar, intermittent views would be possible from a section of road approximately 3km long, where the roadside vegetation allows.

Current View:

The view north-west is across pastures that rise to a skyline in the middle distance that is formed by forest plantations interspersed with bare grassland. The fields in the foreground are divided by stone dykes and post and wire fences with several widely spaced mixed woodland clumps. A power line on timber poles crosses the foreground. Tips of Tormywheel wind turbines can be seen amongst tree groups on the left, Longhill Burn turbines and three Pates Hill turbines are visible between woodland blocks to the right of the view.

Views in other directions are generally of medium length, but there are longer glimpses to the east. Views to the south are curtailed by farm buildings and woodland next to the rail line. To the north-east the rail line forms a strong linear element, with a prominent telecommunications mast and several of the Pearie Law and Harburnhead wind turbines visible on the skyline amongst forest plantations and woodland blocks.

Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View**Residents**

Views from dwellings – high susceptibility.

View not widely promoted; moderate number of receptors – medium value.

Road users:

Road users are unlikely to be travelling for the view – medium susceptibility.

View not widely promoted: moderate number of receptors – medium value.

Assessment of predicted effects**Description of changes:**

During operation, most of the three turbines would be visible, overlapping with Longhill Burn to the right of Pates Hill. Blades of T1 would intersect with several of those of Longhill Burn. The Proposed Development would occupy 38 degrees of the view and blades would appear against the sky, front-lit for more of the time. Construction activity is likely to be concealed by the rising landform, but crane movement would be visible for a short period.

Landscape Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would introduce three turbines into a landscape containing several wind farms. It

Viewpoint: 4

would have a similar typology to adjacent wind farms and, although the landscape context would be similar, it would bring turbines slightly closer to settlement and have an adverse effect on the rural character and the scale of some landscape elements. The changes would be noticeable, affecting some landscape characteristics, and the landscape effect is predicted to be medium.

Construction:

Construction activity is predicted to give rise to a short-term small-medium magnitude of landscape effect.

Visual Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would lie well away from the focus of the view from the cottages, which is eastwards towards the Pentland Hills. It would appear to form an extension to Longhill Burn and Pates Hill and would occupy a moderate proportion of this open view. Its prominence on the skyline and blade overlap with Longhill Burn would increase the visual effect, which is assessed as large for residents and medium-large for road users.

Construction:

Construction activity is predicted to give rise to a short-term medium-large magnitude of visual effect for residents and medium for road users.

Degree of Visual Effects

Operational Effects:	Residents: Moderate-major Road Users: Moderate
Construction Effects:	Residents: Moderate-major Road Users: Moderate

Cumulative effects:**Existing and consented developments:****Simultaneous visibility:**

Heathland resubmission would be visible, overlapping with T2 and T3 of the Proposed Development and one turbine of Longhill Burn within a 90 degree view.

Successive visibility:

Pearie Law extension would be evident to the south-east, in front of and partly overlapping with Pearie Law.

Conclusions:**Landscape:**

The Proposed Development would reflect the typology and landscape context of other wind farms, but would bring turbines slightly closer to settlement. The changes would be noticeable but the Proposed Development is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The cumulative effect is assessed as medium.

Visual:

The Proposed Development would not contrast in terms of scale, proportion and rotation speed with Longhill Burn and Heathland, and would occupy a similar part of this wide view, well away from the focus towards the Pentland Hills. It would bring turbines closer to the observer and blade overlap would also increase the cumulative effect. The changes would be noticeable and the magnitude of cumulative visual effect is predicted to be medium.

Degree of cumulative visual effects:	Residents: Moderate-major Road Users: Moderate
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Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed Development:

The increase in size of the turbines of the Proposed Development would be evident, causing a slightly greater magnitude of visual effect during construction and operation when compared to the Consented Development. This would not be sufficient to affect the overall degree of visual effect.

Viewpoint: 5	
Baseline Conditions	
Viewpoint Location: Forth	
Grid Reference: 294714 654154	Figure Number: 5-9, 5-22
Distance to Proposed Development: 4.82km	View Direction: 52.4° (T2)
Landscape Character Type: 213 Plateau Moorlands - Glasgow & Clyde Valley	Landscape Designation: none
Context: This viewpoint lies to the south-west of the Proposed Development on a quiet minor road, adjacent to a recreation area on the north-eastern edge of Forth. It provides short range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the oblique views experienced by road users along this short (approximately 700 m) section of road. Similar views would be possible from several nearby dwellings; those to the south of the viewpoint would be mostly oblique, but some to the south-west would have direct views towards the Proposed Development.	
Current View: Beyond the road, grass verge and post and wire fence, the view north-east is across gently sloping pasture with scattered trees towards a skyline in the middle distance, formed by forest plantations. The Upper Haywood turbine is relatively prominent to the right, with Longhill Burn turbines to the left of this. Further to the right, the ground falls away towards the Dippool Valley, with longer views eastwards towards the Pentland Hills and some of the Muirhall wind turbines visible, partly backclothed against the hills. The view north-east forms part of an open view, which extends some 110 degrees, from the north-east round to Tinto Hill, to the south. The remaining Muirhall wind turbines can be seen, partly backclothed to the south-east, with the nearby Stobwood Farm turbine prominent amongst them. A power line on timber poles crosses the view in the foreground. Nearby buildings, trees and rising ground curtail views to the west and north.	
Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View Residents: Views from dwellings – high susceptibility. View not promoted; small number of receptors – medium value. Road users: Road users are unlikely to be travelling for the view – medium susceptibility. View not promoted; small number of receptors – low-medium value.	
Assessment of predicted effects	
Description of changes: During operation, blades and two hubs of the Proposed Development would be visible on the skyline, above forest plantations, to the right of the prominent Upper Haywood turbine. The difference in rotation speeds would be apparent. The Proposed Development would occupy some eight degrees of the view and blades would be front-lit for more of the time. No blade overlap would be evident, but the blades of T1 would appear to flick above the trees. Blades and two hubs of Longhill Burn will be visible above the forest plantations to the left of the view. Construction activity would be concealed from view, although the movement of cranes may be evident for a short period.	
Landscape Effects: Operation: The changes would be evident, but affecting a landscape backdrop already containing equally prominent turbines. The Proposed Development would bring about a minor change to the landscape and the magnitude of effect is predicted to be small-negligible. Construction: Crane activity is predicted to give rise to a short-term, negligible magnitude of landscape effect.	
Visual Effects: Operation: The Proposed Development would lie well away from the focus of this view, which is to the east, towards the Pentland Hills. It would occupy a small proportion of this wide view and would appear to form an extension to Longhill Burn. The magnitude of visual effect is predicted to be small for residents and small-negligible for road users.	

Viewpoint: 5	
Construction: Crane activity would be evident for a short time. The magnitude of visual effect is predicted to be small-negligible for residents and negligible for road users.	
Degree of Visual Effects	
Operational Effects:	Residents: Moderate Road Users: Moderate-minor
Construction Effects:	Residents: Moderate-minor Road Users: Minor
Cumulative effects:	
Existing and consented developments: Simultaneous visibility: Heathland resubmission would be visible, the blades overlapping with those of Longhill Burn and with T3 of the Proposed Development within a 90 degree view. Pearie Law extension is likely to be screened from view by intervening forest plantations. Successive visibility: No other consented developments would be visible, due to screening by buildings and vegetation. Conclusions: Landscape: The Proposed Development would appear to form part of the cluster containing Heathland and Longhill Burn, being similar in typology and landscape context, which would reduce the cumulative effect. It would extend this cluster eastwards but is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The magnitude of cumulative effect is predicted to be small-negligible. Visual: Although the Proposed Development would be of similar scale, proportion and rotation speed to the adjacent wind farms, it would increase the degree of blade overlap slightly. It would not bring turbines closer to the viewer and the magnitude of cumulative visual effect is predicted to be small for residents and small-negligible for road users.	
Degree of cumulative visual effects:	Residents: Moderate Road Users: Minor
Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed Development:	
The difference in turbine size between those of the Proposed Development and the Consented Development would not be apparent from this viewpoint and the Proposed Development is not considered to cause a material change to the level of effect.	

Viewpoint: 6	
Baseline Conditions	
Viewpoint Location: Fauldhouse	
Grid Reference: 294311 660782	Figure Number: 5-10, 5-23
Distance to Proposed Development: 5.55km	View Direction: 127.6° (T2)
Landscape Character Type: 273 Lowland Plateaux - Lothians	Landscape Designation: none
Context: This viewpoint lies to the north-west of the Proposed Development, adjacent to a new housing development on the eastern edge of Fauldhouse.	

Viewpoint: 6

It provides medium range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the views experienced by residents. Similar, slightly more narrowly framed views would be possible from approximately 15 dwellings. There would be no visibility from an adjacent recreational route, which is in cutting.

Since the photography was carried out an additional house has been constructed to the west of the viewpoint. This has framed this view, which was previously more open, but it remains representative of views experienced by residents of the nearby dwellings.

Current View:

Beyond the road the view south-east is across rough grassland with scattered trees towards the rail line, marked by a line of trees. A patchwork of grassland, moorland and forest blocks lies below the skyline in the middle distance, which is formed mostly by forest plantations, with some areas of open moorland. A pylon line crosses the skyline and several wind farms are also visible against the sky. The most evident is Longhill Burn, with Tormywheel, to the right of the view.

The view south-east forms part of an open view of moderate length that extends some 110 degrees from the east to the south-west. To the south, two single wind turbines are visible above the forested skyline and a few of the Black Law turbines can be seen to the south-west, immediately to the left of a mixed tree belt. Housing and trees curtail views to the south-west, west, north and east, although there are some glimpses between nearby trees eastwards towards the Pentland Hills.

Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View**Residents:**

Views from dwellings – high susceptibility.

View not promoted; medium number of receptors – medium value.

Assessment of predicted effects**Description of changes:**

During operation, the blade tips and one hub of the Proposed Development would be visible, moving above the forest plantations on the skyline to the right of those of Pates Hill. Turbine blades would be backlit for more of the time, appearing dark against the sky and occupying some 10 degrees of the view. T1 would overlap with one turbine of Longhill Burn, which will appear much more prominent on the skyline, mostly to the left of the Proposed Development.

Cranes would be visible for a short time, but otherwise construction activities would not be evident.

Landscape Effects:**Operation:**

The changes would be evident, adding very slightly to the perception of wind farms within this landscape, but would not otherwise affect any landscape characteristics.

The Proposed Development would result in little perceptible change and the magnitude of landscape effect is predicted to be negligible.

Construction:

The short-term appearance of cranes would give rise to a negligible magnitude of landscape effect.

Visual Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would be evident, but would bring about a minor change to the view. It would fit the existing pattern of turbines and would not affect the longest parts of this view, towards the east.

Blade overlap would increase the potential visual confusion but, taking account of the limited proportion of the view affected and the subtle nature of the changes, the magnitude of visual effect is predicted to be small.

Construction:

Crane activity would be evident for a short time and is predicted to give rise to a small-negligible magnitude of visual effect.

Degree of Visual Effects**Operational Effects:****Residents:**

Moderate-minor

Construction Effects:**Residents:**

Moderate-minor

Cumulative effects:**Existing and consented developments:****Simultaneous visibility:**

Viewpoint: 6

Several of the Heathland resubmission wind turbines would be evident within a 90 degree view, overlapping with those of Longhill Burn and Tormywheel, but not with the Proposed Development. Pearie Law extension would be visible amongst the Pates Hill and Longhill Burn turbines to the left of the view.

Successive visibility:

Tormywheel extension turbines would be visible amongst Tormywheel to the north and some of the Camilty resubmission wind turbines may be seen within the long view to the east.

Conclusions:**Landscape:**

The Proposed Development would introduce one hub and three blade tips into a landscape with several more prominent wind farms. The Proposed Development would appear to form part of the developing cluster of adjacent wind farms, and located within a similar landscape context. It is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The change would be very minor and the magnitude of cumulative effect is predicted to be negligible.

Visual:

The Proposed Development would occupy the same part of this wide view as Longhill Burn and Heathland, and would not bring turbines closer to the viewer. The blades of T1 and T2 would overlap with those of the adjacent wind farms, but the Proposed Development would bring about a very minor change to the view and the magnitude of cumulative visual effect is predicted to be negligible.

Degree of cumulative visual effects:**Residents:**

Minor

Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed Development:

The increase in size of the turbines of the Proposed Development would be evident, causing a slightly greater magnitude of visual effect during construction and operation when compared to the Consented Development. This would not be sufficient to affect the overall degree of visual effect

Viewpoint: 7**Baseline Conditions**

Viewpoint Location: Longridge

Grid Reference: 295164 662198

Figure Number: 5-11, 5-24

Distance to Proposed Development: 5.80km

View Direction: 143.2° (T2)

Landscape Character Type: 273 Lowland Plateaux - Lothians

Landscape Designation: none

Context:

This viewpoint lies to the north-west of the Proposed Development on the southern edge of Longridge. It provides medium range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the direct views experienced by residents. Similar views would be possible from several nearby dwellings.

Current View:

The view south-east is framed by nearby mixed woodland belts and extends to approximately 65 degrees. In the foreground, rough grassland, with a scatter of mixed woodland belts, slopes down towards the Breich Water. Beyond Breich, numerous forest plantations with some patches of grassland and moorland cover the slopes, rising towards the skyline in the middle distance. A power line on timber poles crosses the foreground and a pylon line is evident on the skyline. Several wind farms can be seen against the sky, the most prominent of these are Longhill Burn and Tormywheel, partly hidden by trees to the right of the view. The access track for Longhill Burn wind farm can be seen beyond Breich in the centre of the view. To the left, one of two turbines beside the A71 is visible in front of the Harburnhead and Pearie Law wind farms, which are mostly backclothed by the Pentland Hills.

Views in other directions are curtailed by nearby trees and vegetation, buildings and mixed tree belts.

Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View**Residents:**

Views from dwellings – high susceptibility.

View not promoted; medium number of receptors – medium value.

Assessment of predicted effects

Viewpoint: 7**Description of changes:**

During operation, the blade tips of the Proposed Development would be visible, moving above the forest plantations on the skyline amongst Longhill Burn and to the right of Pates Hill. Turbine blades would be backlit for more of the time, appearing dark against the sky and occupying some eight degrees of the view. They would overlap with those of Longhill Burn, which will appear much more prominent in the foreground, mostly to the left of the Proposed Development.

Cranes would be visible for a short time, but otherwise construction activities would not be evident.

Landscape Effects:**Operation:**

The changes would be evident, adding slightly to the perception of wind farms within this landscape, but would not otherwise affect any landscape characteristics.

The magnitude of effect is predicted to be small-negligible.

Construction:

The short-term appearance of cranes would give rise to a negligible magnitude of landscape effect.

Visual Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would be slightly prominent on the skyline but would bring about a minor change to the view. It would fit the existing pattern of turbines established by Pates Hill and Longhill Burn and would not affect the longest part of the view, towards the east. The blade overlap with Longhill Burn would increase the potential visual confusion slightly.

Taking into account the limited proportion of the view affected and the relatively subtle nature of the changes, the magnitude of visual effect is predicted to be small.

Construction:

Crane activity would be evident for a short time and is predicted to give rise to a small-negligible magnitude of visual effect.

Degree of Visual Effects**Operational Effects:****Residents:**

Moderate

Construction Effects:**Residents:**

Moderate-minor

Cumulative effects:**Existing and consented developments:****Simultaneous visibility:**

Most of the Heathland resubmission wind turbines would be evident within a 90 degree view, overlapping with those of Tormywheel, and with T3 of the Proposed Development. Pearie Law extension would be visible, overlapping with Pates Hill and to the left of Longhill Burn. Camilty resubmission would be screened by tree belts. A single wind turbine at Blackhill Farm would be visible in front of Longhill Burn turbines.

Successive visibility:

No other consented wind farms would be visible.

Conclusions:**Landscape:**

The Proposed Development would introduce two hubs and additional blade tips into a landscape containing several more prominent wind farms. The Proposed Development would appear to form part of the developing cluster of adjacent wind farms, and located within a similar landscape context. It is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The magnitude of cumulative effect is predicted to be negligible.

Visual:

The Proposed Development would occupy the same part of this wide view as Pates Hill, Longhill Burn and Heathland, but the blades of all three turbines would overlap with those of Longhill Burn and one with Heathland, increasing the potential visual confusion. It would not bring turbines closer to the viewer. The changes would be apparent, but affecting little of the view and the magnitude of cumulative visual effect is predicted to be small-negligible.

Degree of cumulative visual effects:**Residents:**

Moderate-minor

Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed

Viewpoint: 7**Development:**

The difference in turbine size between those of the Proposed Development and the Consented Development would not be apparent from this viewpoint and the Proposed Development is not considered to cause a material change to the level of effect.

Viewpoint: 8**Baseline Conditions**

Viewpoint Location: A70 Maidenhill

Grid Reference: 303987 654695

Figure Number: 5-12, 5-25

Distance to Proposed Development: 5.62km

View Direction: 296.8° (T2)

Landscape Character Type: 268 Upland Hills - Lothians

Landscape Designation: Pentland Hills SLA

Context:

This viewpoint lies to the south-east of the Proposed Development beside a fast section of the busy A70 at the junction with a minor road which heads west to Auchengray. A footpath leads east from here towards Henshaw Hill.

It provides medium range views towards the Proposed Development, representative of the indirect views experienced by road users. Similar views would be possible from a section of road approximately 3.6km long, where the roadside vegetation allows.

Current View:

Beyond the grass verge and post and wire fencing, the view north-west is across open rough grazing that rises gently to an intermediate horizon in the foreground with a single tree clump. Beyond this, the land drops away, rising again to the skyline, formed mostly by forest plantations. To the left of the view, the settlement of Forth can be seen amongst forest plantations and open farmland. Wind farms extend across much of the view, seen mostly against the sky. The most prominent of these is Longhill Burn, with Pearie Law to the right. The Upper Haywood single wind turbine is also visible, amongst the Black Law group on the skyline beyond. The view is longer to the left, forming part of a wide view, some 90 degrees in extent.

Harburnhead wind farm is visible on the skyline to the north. East of this, grass moorland rises to form a mostly bare skyline in the near distance, with occasional forest plantations and longer views of hills towards the south. To the south-west, there are long views beyond forest plantations towards Tinto Hill, with Muirhall wind turbines prominent in the middle distance and partly seen against the sky.

Visual Receptors, Receptor Susceptibility to Change and Value of View**Road users:**

Most road users are unlikely to be travelling for the view – medium susceptibility.

View not promoted; large number of receptors – medium-high value.

Assessment of predicted effects**Description of changes:**

During operation, all three turbines would be visible from hub to tip. Blades would be predominantly front-lit, partly above the skyline. Blades of T2 and, to a lesser extent, T3 would overlap with those of Tormywheel; those of T1 with Longhill Burn. The Proposed Development would occupy approximately 11 degrees of the view

Ground level construction activity would be screened by landform but cranes would be visible for a short period.

Landscape Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would bring turbines slightly closer to the viewer than Longhill Burn. The changes would be evident, but affecting a part of the landscape already containing several wind farms. The magnitude of effect is predicted to be small-negligible.

Construction:

The appearance of cranes for a short period is predicted to give rise to a negligible magnitude of landscape effect.

Visual Effects:**Operation:**

The Proposed Development would lie well away from the focus of the focus of this view, which for drivers

Viewpoint: 8

heading south is towards Tinto Hill and other distant hills. It would occupy a relatively small proportion of this wide view and would appear to form an extension to Longhill Burn.

The magnitude of visual effect is predicted to be small for road users.

Construction:

The brief appearance of cranes is predicted to give rise to a small-negligible magnitude of visual effect.

Degree of Visual Effects**Operational Effects:****Road Users:**

Moderate-minor

Construction Effects:**Road Users:**

Moderate-minor

Cumulative effects:**Existing and consented developments:****Simultaneous visibility:**

Heathland resubmission would be visible, overlapping with T2 and T3 of the Proposed Development. Pearie Law extension would appear close by and to the right of the Proposed Development, overlapping slightly with Pates Hill and to the left of Pearie Law. The proximity of Pearie Law extension would reduce the cumulative effect of the Proposed Development slightly.

Successive visibility:

No other consented developments would be visible.

Conclusions:**Landscape:**

The Proposed Development would introduce three turbines into a landscape already containing several wind farms. The Proposed Development would appear to form part of a large cluster, and be similar in typology and landscape context to adjacent wind farms, which would reduce the cumulative effect. It is not predicted to give rise to a landscape characterised by wind turbines. The magnitude of cumulative effect is predicted to be small-negligible.

Visual:

The Proposed Development would not contrast in terms of scale, proportion and rotation speed with adjacent wind farms and would occupy the same part of this wide view. It would bring turbines slightly closer to the viewer and the blade overlap would increase the potential visual confusion. The magnitude of cumulative visual effect for road users is predicted to be small.

Degree of cumulative visual effects:**Road Users:**

Moderate-minor

Comparative Assessment of Effects between the Consented Development and the Proposed Development:

The difference in turbine size between those of the Proposed Development and the Consented Development would not be apparent from this viewpoint and the Proposed Development is not considered to cause a material change to the level of effect.