

13 Socio-Economic and Tourism

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13 Socio-Economic and Tourism

13.1 Executive Summary

13.1.1 This chapter considers the socio-economic, tourism and recreation impacts associated with the Proposed Development.

13.1.2 The assessment of the socio-economic impact during the construction and development phase and the operations and maintenance phase was conducted on the basis of the Proposed Development as described in Chapter 3.

13.1.3 The tourism and recreation assessment relied on a literature review of the relationship between wind farms and tourism activity in Scotland, as well as on a desk-based study of tourism assets, recreation activities and locations, and accommodation providers located within 15 km of the Proposed Development.

13.1.4 It was estimated that during the construction phase the Proposed Development could support £409,788 Gross Value Added (GVA) and 6.2 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs in the local area per year. Operation and maintenance expenditures from the Proposed Development could have an impact of £4.73m GVA and 91.0 jobs in the local area over the 30-year operational period (3 FTE jobs per year).

13.1.5 The assessment of the economic impacts concluded that the Proposed Development would result in minor beneficial effects and negligible effects during the construction and operational phases respectively.

13.1.6 The assessment of impacts upon tourism and recreation assets concluded that the Proposed Development would result in negligible to minor adverse effects and negligible effects during the construction and operational phases respectively.

13.2 Introduction

13.2.1 This chapter considers the socio-economic, tourism and recreation assessment of the Proposed Development. The assessment was conducted on the basis of the Proposed Development as described in Chapter 3.

13.2.2 This chapter has been authored by a combination of Jonas Beaugas and Rebecca Todd. Rebecca Todd has 17 years' experience as an EIA consultant, having written numerous EIA chapters as well as leading on the EIA process. Jonas Beaugas is an experienced senior consultant with over 5 years' experience who provided support to Rebecca Todd. The chapter has been reviewed by Paul Darnbrough, who is ITPE's Head of EIA with 20 years experience and who has been lead author on numerous EIA Reports.

13.2.3 The assessment has considered potential impacts and resulting effects upon the socio-economic, and tourism and recreation receptors associated with the Proposed Development, solely and cumulatively with other wind farm developments.

13.2.4 This chapter also summarises the opportunities for community benefits as a result of the Proposed Development.

13.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidelines

Legislation

13.3.1 There is no legislation which relates directly to socio-economic, tourism and recreation, that is relevant to this study.

13.3.2 The Land Reform Act (Scottish Government, 2003) however requires that each local authority in Scotland has a duty to draw up a plan of core paths in their area and is however relevant to the

tourism and recreation assessment. Maps of the core paths identified within The Highland Council (THC) administrative area have been developed by THC in consultation with local communities, land managers and path users and have been used as part of this assessment.

Policy

13.3.3 Chapter 5 of this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) sets out the planning policy framework that are relevant to the Proposed Development, including policy relevant to the socio-economic, tourism and recreation.

Guidance

13.3.4 There is no formal guidance on the methods that should be used to assess the effects that wind farm developments may have on the socio-economic, tourism and recreation interests. The assessment is, however, based on best practice and draws on two studies by BIGGAR Economics on the UK onshore wind energy sector, a report published by RenewableUK and the then Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in 2012 on the direct and wider economic benefits of the onshore wind sector to the UK economy (Department of Energy and Climate Change & RenewableUK, 2012) and a subsequent update to this report published by RenewableUK in 2015 (RenewableUK, 2015).

13.4 Consultation

13.4.1 Consultation has been undertaken on the socio-economic, tourism, recreation and land use assessment with the following consultees.

Table 13.1 – Summary of Consultation

Consultee	Consultation Response	Applicant Action
Highland Council (2018 Scoping response – 01/03/2018)	A plan must be submitted with all non-motorised access ways and the proposed access route to the site. It must also show the proposed public access provision during construction and operation	A Figure has been provided showing all non-motorised access ways alongside the proposed access route, as well as proposed access during construction. Refer to Figure 13.3.
Highland Council (2018 Scoping response - 01/03/2018)	The assessment must identify the households/communities/socio-economic groups to be affected (e.g. tourists) and include economic info relating to the project.	This chapter has identified the local tourism business and recreational facilities which may be impacted by the Proposed Development. The chapter also includes how local households and communities will be affected.
The Highland Council (pre-application advice pack – 09/09/2020)	Whilst the site is on land where access rights (as given under part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003) are exercisable there is no significant recreational access resource within the proposed development boundary itself. However, the site is adjacent to the	An assessment of all rights of way within 15 km of the site has been undertaken. A construction and operation phase access and recreation management plan(s) will be provided within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and

Consultee	Consultation Response	Applicant Action
	<p>National Cycle Network (NCN) route 1 and a recorded public right of way (CROW Code HS29).</p> <p>The main points relating to public access are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposal potentially affects on the NCN and Public Right of Way during the construction and operational phases. - The Internal Road Network should be noted will be accessible to the public during the operation phase of the development and the proposal may increase access resource within the immediate area. <p>Construction and access management plan should be provided. The plan should detail how the construction phase of the proposal will not affect the NCN and the Public Right of Way.</p> <p>A Recreational Access Management Plan will also be required.</p> <p><i>Any permanent site signage should be approved by the planning authority and if directed towards the public taking access to the site, signage can be detailed in the above recreational access management plan for approval.</i></p>	<p>Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) accordingly. We anticipate the requirement for these documents can be set out in a condition of consent which requires consultation and approval from THC prior to site commencement.</p> <p>Potential impacts upon the public right of way immediately south of the Proposed Development are assessed in Paragraph 13.9.13.</p> <p>Information regarding access to the site during the construction phase are detailed in Appendix 3.3.</p>
<p>NatureScot (Formerly Scottish Natural Heritage) (scoping response - 01/03/2018)</p>	<p>Consideration should also be given to the proposal's location in relation to Ben Kilbreck.</p>	<p>The assessment has taken into consideration the recreational use of Ben Kilbreck.</p>

Consultee	Consultation Response	Applicant Action
Scotways (06/10/2020)	<p>Scotways provided a list of Rights of Ways within 5 km of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Scotways also stated the followings:</p> <p>“It is advisable to set back all wind turbines a minimum distance, equivalent to the height of the blade tip, from the edge of any public highway (road or other public right of way) or railway line.”</p>	<p>All Rights of ways provided by Scotways have been considered in this assessment.</p> <p>All turbines are located a distance greater than their tip height to any edge of any public highway (road or other public right of way) .</p>

13.5 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

Study Area

13.5.1 The Socio-economic, and tourism and recreation study areas are shown in Figure 13.1.

Socio-economic

13.5.2 The socio-economic baseline has been separated into three main geographical areas as follows:

- National – within Scotland
- Regional – within the Highlands region
- Local – Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross.

13.5.3 The socio-economic baseline was identified from the most recently published, publicly available statistics using online resources including:

- 2019 NOMIS (Office for National Statistics, 2019)
- Scottish Annual Business Statistics 2018 (Scottish Government, 2020); and
- 2019 Scottish Government Statistics (Scottish Government, 2019)

Tourism & Recreation

13.5.4 The geographical area considered as part of the assessment includes the area within- 15 km of the Proposed Development as proposed at the EIA scoping stage.

Desk Study

13.5.5 The assessment relied on a desk study analysis of the local socio-economic, tourism and recreation context.

Limitations to Assessment

13.5.6 The assessment is based on the experience of comparable developments elsewhere and a review of the local socio-economic context. In order to maximise the economic effects associated with the Proposed Development, local contractors will be invited to engage with the Applicant to discuss business opportunities.

- 13.5.7 The assessment of impacts upon the socio-economic, and tourism and recreations assets was undertaken on the existing assets, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
- 13.5.8 The Global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the economy, tourism and recreation within the Scottish Highlands.
- 13.5.9 It is expected that the COVID-19 restrictions measures will be lifted prior to the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development, However, uncertainty remains as to the state and composition of the socio-economic and tourism industry in the Scottish Highlands at that time.

Assessment of Potential Effect Significance

Socio-Economic

- 13.5.10 There are no prescribed methodology for the assessment of socio-economic effects, although it is generally accepted that wind farms bring positive socio-economic benefits through generation of employment and economic activity. The assessment of socio-economic effects (beneficial or adverse) is based on professional judgement in relation to policy context and the baseline conditions using the following categories:
- Major significance – effects of the Proposed Development are anticipated to be very substantial and greater than local scale.
 - Moderate significance – effects of the Proposed Development are anticipated to be noticeable and may be judged to be important at the local scale.
 - Minor significance – slight or highly localised effects that may be raised as local issues or benefits.
 - Negligible significance or No effects – effects are indiscernible.

Tourism & Recreation

- 13.5.11 Assessment of tourism and recreation effects has been undertaken based on consideration of the sensitivity of receptors (tourism attractions/recreational facilities) and the magnitude of impact arising from the Proposed Development.
- 13.5.12 The criteria used to describe the sensitivity of tourism and recreation receptors are described in Table 13.2.

Table 13.2 – Tourism and Recreation Receptor Sensitivity Categories

Sensitivity	Criteria
High sensitivity	Tourist site of national or international status (e.g. UNESCO world heritage site) or high visitor numbers/users.
Medium sensitivity	National or regional recreational resource (e.g. national long-distance routes, rights of way, or Core Paths). Tourist site of regional status or moderate visitor numbers and for which landscape setting and surroundings are somewhat important considerations.
Low sensitivity	Local recreational resources, e.g. non-designated footpaths. Tourist site with few visitor numbers/users or for which landscape setting and surroundings are unimportant.

Sensitivity	Criteria
Negligible sensitivity	Informal, poorly accessible or rarely used recreational resources; transient or undefined tourist sites with very low visitor numbers or for which landscape setting and surroundings are irrelevant.

13.5.13 The magnitude of impacts arising from the Proposed Development have been classified as set out in Table 13.3.

Table 13.3 – Magnitude of Impacts for Tourism and Recreation

Magnitude of impact	Criteria
High adverse	Long-term or permanent obstruction of recreational use. Long-term or permanent obstruction of a tourist site. A fundamental decrease in tourist visits and recreational users.
Medium adverse	Medium-term, temporary impediment that creates a nuisance to recreational users that should be avoided. Results in a material but non-fundamental negative change in tourist visits and/or recreational users.
Low adverse	Results in a negative change, within existing variability, in tourist visits and/or recreational users which is difficult to measure or observe.
Negligible adverse/beneficial	Negligible change to any of the above or below factors.
Low beneficial	Results in a positive change, within existing variability, in tourist visits and/or recreational users which is difficult to measure or observe.
Medium beneficial	Results in a material but non-fundamental positive change in tourist visits and/or recreational users.
High beneficial	A fundamental increase in tourist visits and recreational users.

13.5.14 The effect is assessed based on a combination of the sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of impact, generally in line with the matrix set out in Chapter 4 Approach to EIA (Table 4.1) Professional judgement is, however, equally important in verifying the suitability of this guiding ‘formula’ to the assessment of the significance of each individual effect.

13.5.15 Effects assessed as moderate or major are deemed to be significant in EIA terms and this is therefore applied to this assessment.

13.6 Baseline Conditions

13.6.1 This section sets out the baseline conditions for the study areas that are considered in this assessment.

Socio-Economic Baseline

- 13.6.2 This section summarises the key points in the socio-economic structure of the local area its profile in comparison with the Highland and Scotland overall.

Strategic Economic Context

Scotland's Refreshed Economic Action Plan 2020

- 13.6.3 The Scottish Government's Economic Action Plan (Scottish Government, 2020) sets out how it plans to make Scotland a leader in technological and social innovations. It aims to deliver higher productivity and greater competitiveness, while transitioning to a carbon neutral economy through measures that support business, and encouraging investment, innovation and upskilling.

- 13.6.4 At the heart of this strategy is inclusive growth, combining increased prosperity with greater equity, which requires getting the fundamentals right. These include:

- resilience and growth;
- realising the climate enterprise opportunity;
- transforming support for business;
- developing key skills;
- benefitting all areas of Scotland from investment in jobs, skills and infrastructure;
- investing in infrastructure and transport;
- collaboration to deliver a sustainable, inclusive economy;
- tackling child poverty;
- ensuring high quality, sustainable, affordable homes for all;
- building a global economy;
- investment: supporting Scotland's transition to a net zero economy; and
- entrepreneurship.

Scottish Energy Strategy

- 13.6.5 In December 2017, the Scottish Government published the Scottish Energy Strategy (Scottish Government, 2017), which sets out the Government's vision for Scotland's energy future.

- 13.6.6 In 2018, 54.9% of the electricity produced in Scotland came from renewable sources, 28.2% from other low carbon sources and 15.7% from fossil fuels (Scottish Government, 2019a). At the time of writing 2019 data have not been published. By 2030, the Scottish Government wants the proportion of all energy, including heat and transport, supplied from renewable sources to increase to 50 %.

- 13.6.7 The Scottish Government has also highlighted that renewables present an economic opportunity as an expanding market which will continue to support Scottish economic growth. The Scottish Government will continue to support businesses in this sector.

- 13.6.8 Additionally, the Scottish Government has emphasised the importance of communities benefitting from renewable energy generation, including through community benefit funds and shared ownership.

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction targets) (Scotland) Bill

- 13.6.9 In September 2019, the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act (Scottish Parliament, 2019), which sets a legally binding target of

achieving “net-zero” carbon emissions by 2045. This is five years earlier than the previous target. Within this legislation, interim targets were set for the reduction of emissions by 75% of the baseline by 2030.

Scottish Government Networks Vision Statement (2019)

- 13.6.10 ‘A Vision for Scotland’s Electricity and Gas Networks’ (Scottish Government, 2019b) proposes an approach to energy systems that provides a transition to decarbonised energy system, considers a whole system approach and focuses on smarter local energy models.
- 13.6.11 In the context of energy transmission, the document focuses on the need for infrastructures that could support Scotland’s ambitions in the development of the renewable energy sector.

The Caithness and Sutherland Plan Local Development Plan Statement (2018)

- 13.6.12 The Caithness and Sutherland Plan Local Development Plan (The Highland Council, 2018) sets out the priorities for The Highland Council. The Plan considers the context within which the Highland Council Operates and will operate.
- 13.6.13 The plan is built around four priority “Vision Outcomes” agreed by the Highland Community Planning Partners, which are as follows:
 - Growing Communities: A network of successful, sustainable and socially inclusive communities where people want to live, which provide the most convenient access to key services, training and employment and are the primary locations for inward investment.
 - Employment: A strong, diverse and sustainable economy characterised as being an internationally renowned centre for renewable energy, world class engineering, land management, and sea-based industries and a tourist industry that combines culture, history, adventure and wildlife.
 - Connectivity and Transport: Enhanced communications, utilities and transport infrastructure that support communities and economic growth, with development anchored to existing or planned provision.
 - Environment and Heritage: High quality places where the outstanding environment and natural, build and cultural heritage is celebrated, and valued assets are safeguarded.

Socio-Economic

Population

- 13.6.14 The breakdown of the Local and Regional populations is similar to the rest of Scotland.

Table 13.4 – Population Breakdown

Population	Local	Regional	National
Population 2019	69,758	235,830	5,463,300
% male	49.3%	49.0%	48.7%
% female	50.7%	51.0%	51.3%

Source: 2019 Scottish Government Statistics (Scottish Government, 2019c)

Economic Activity

13.6.15 The economic activity rate is a useful measure of the labour market opportunities available to the population. The local economic activity rate is lower than both the regional and national averages.

13.6.16 Similarly, the local median annual gross pay is lower than regional and national averages.

Table 13.5 – Economic Activity Breakdown

Economic Activity	Local	Regional	National
Economic Activity Rate (16-64)	75.1%	82.2%	77.1%
Economic Inactivity (16-64)	24.9%	17.8%	22.9%
Median Annual Gross Pay (£/Week)	559.8	568.2	577.7

Source: 2019 NOMIS (Office for National Statistics, 2019)

13.6.17 The regional area is characterised by lower than national and regional average employment rates. The proportion of self-employed workers is greater regionally and locally than the national average which is to be expected for a rural area, with rural areas typically exhibiting an above average proportion of self-employed workers.

Table 13.6 – Employment Breakdown

Economic Activity	Local	Regional	National
Economical Active			
In Employment (part and full time) (%)	73.9%	80.1%	74.5%
Self-Employed (%)	13.6%	10.9%	8.8%
Unemployed (%)	Not available	2.3%	3.3%
Economically Inactive			
Retired (%)	Not available	18.8%	14.4%
Student (economically inactive) (%)	Not available	Not available	26.7%
Looking after home/family	Not available	17.6%	18.2%
Permanently sick/disabled (%)	Not available	34.4%	28.0%
Other economically inactive (%)	Not available	18.1%	12.8%

Source: 2019 NOMIS (Office for National Statistics, 2019)

Industry Structure

13.6.18 Wholesale and retail trade as well as human health and social work activities are the main employers in the local area which is consistent with the regional and national averages.

Table 13.7 – Industry Breakdown

Industry	Local	Regional	National
% A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Not available	Not available	Not available
% B. Mining and quarrying	1.3%	0.5%	1.1%
% C. Manufacturing	8.7%	6.4%	7.2%
% D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.2%	0.8%	0.7%
% E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	6.5%	1.8%	0.8%
%F. Construction	6.5%	6.4%	5.5%
% G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	13.0%	14.5%	13.9%
% H. Transport and storage	4.3%	4.5%	4.3%
% I. Accommodation and food service activities	9.8%	11.8%	8.1%
% J. Information and communication	2.2%	2.0%	3.2%
% K. Financial and insurance activities	0.8%	0.9%	3.5%
% L. Real estate activities	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%
% M. Professional scientific and technical activities	6.5%	5.5%	7.1%
% N. Administrative and support service activities	5.4%	5.5%	8.2%
%O. Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	4.3%	6.4%	6.3%
% P. Education	7.6%	7.3%	7.8%
% Q. Human health and social work activities	13.0%	18.2%	15.7%

Industry	Local	Regional	National
% R, S, T, U. Other	5.0%	5.2%	4.9%

Source: 2019 NOMIS (Office for National Statistics, 2019)

Occupation

- 13.6.19 Regionally and Nationally the occupational group with the highest percentage is 'professional occupations. Due to the rural nature of the local area the skilled trades are the most represented locally.

Table 13.8 – Occupation Breakdown

Occupational Group	Local	Regional	National
% managers, directors and senior officials	Not available	9.8%	9.4%
% professional occupations	16.0%	20.9%	21.5%
% associate professional and technical occupations	Not available	8.5%	14.0%
% administrative and secretarial occupations	16.3%	11.8%	9.2%
% skilled trades occupations	25.0%	15.0%	10.5%
% caring, leisure and other service occupations	Not available	10.9%	10.0%
% sales and customer services occupations	Not available	5.9%	8.2%
% process, plant and machine operatives	Not available	7.6%	6.2%
% elementary occupations	Not available	9.3%	10.7%

Source: 2019 NOMIS (Office for National Statistics, 2019)

Qualifications

- 13.6.20 13.4% of the local area do not hold any qualifications which is higher than the regional and national average. Similarly, the percentage of the local population with level 1-4 qualifications is lower than the regional and national average.

Table 13.9 – Qualification Breakdown

Qualifications	Local	Regional	National
% with no qualifications	13.4%	6.9%	9.8%
% Highest qualification attained – Level 1	78.0%	86.3%	83.5%

Qualifications	Local	Regional	National
% Highest qualification attained – Level 2	72.7%	78.9%	75.6%
% Highest qualification attained – Level 3	53.5%	60.8%	60.8%
% Highest qualification attained – Level 4 and above	30.5%	43.7%	45.3%

Source: 2019 NOMIS (Office for National Statistics, 2019)

Gross Value Added (GVA)

- 13.6.21 The Highland contributes a very minor share (3.5 %) of Scotland’s total GVA. The wholesale, retail and repairs industry represents the main contributor to the Highlands GVA and second highest for Scotland, Primary industries being the main contributor for Scotland as a whole.

Table 13.10 – Gross Value Added Breakdown by Industry

Industry	Regional (£ million)	% of Highland GVA per sector	Scotland (£ million)	% of Scotland GVA per sector	Highland as % of Scotland
Primary industries	520.0	15.3%	20,813.1	21.3%	0.5%
Manufacturing	439.9	12.9%	12,529.7	12.8%	0.4%
Construction	432.5	12.7%	7,777.8	7.9%	0.4%
Wholesale, retail and repairs	572.2	16.8%	12,871.5	13.1%	0.6%
Transport and storage	202.6	5.9%	6,475.1	6.6%	0.2%
Accommodation and food service activities	295.5	8.7%	4,077.1	4.2%	0.3%
Information and communication	167.1	4.9%	5,452.1	5.6%	0.2%
Real Estate activities	98.3	2.9%	2,251.7	2.3%	0.1%

Industry	Regional (£ million)	% of Highland GVA per sector	Scotland (£ million)	% of Scotland GVA per sector	Highland as % of Scotland
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	288.4	8.5%	11,627.1	11.9%	0.3%
Administrative and support service activities	209.5	6.1%	7,591.6	7.8%	0.2%
Education, human health and social work activities	131.3	3.9%	3,701.8	3.8%	0.1%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	33.1	1.0%	1,024.5	1.0%	0.0%
Other service activities	16.7	0.5%	1,716.7	1.8%	0.0%
TOTAL GVA	3,407.1	100%	97,909.8	100%	3.5%

Source: Scottish Annual Business Statistics 2018 (Scottish Government, 2020b)

Summary

- 13.6.22 The population of Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross earns less than the Highland and Scottish average. The industrial structure of Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross would suggest that it is relatively well placed to take advantage of some areas of onshore wind expenditure, particularly those related to civil engineering and scientific and technical services.

Tourism and Recreation Baseline

- 13.6.23 The baseline tourism context includes the strategies that support tourism in the study areas and the attractions, facilities and metrics associated with tourism and recreation facilities in these areas.

Tourism and Recreation Strategy

Tourism Scotland 2020 Strategy

- 13.6.24 Tourism Scotland 2020 (Scottish Tourism Alliance, 2012), created and maintained by the Scottish Tourism Alliance, is the national tourism strategy for Scotland. It was created in 2012 with the goal of increasing visitor-spend by one billion pounds, from £4.5 billion to £5.5 billion, by 2020. Key performance indicators associated with this goal to measure progress include:
- grow visitor-spend by £1 billion from £4.5 billion to £5.5 billion by 2020;
 - increase the advocacy score for Scotland from 25%;

- increase the average visitor-spend from £358.56;
 - increase the total tourism employment figures from 185,100; and
 - increase total tourism turnover from £6.2 billion.
- 13.6.25 The strategy was reviewed in 2016 (Scottish Tourism Alliance, 2016) at the mid-term point of the policy with further priorities being identified to achieve the targets for 2020 set in 2012, including:
- strengthen digital capabilities;
 - strengthen industry leadership;
 - enhance the quality of the visitor experience; and
 - influence investment, specifically flight access & transport connectivity, built infrastructure, digital connectivity and business growth finance.

Highland Tourism Strategy

- 13.6.26 The Highland Area Tourism Partnership (ATP) was established in 2005 and comprises representatives from the tourist industry and key public bodies involved in delivering tourism in the Highlands, including VisitScotland, the Highland Council, the Highlands and Islands Enterprise network, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and the Cairngorms National Park Authority.
- 13.6.27 The ATP has produced a Highland Area Tourism Partnership Plan (ATP, 2006) which covers the period 2006-2015 and which describes some of the key issues that need to be addressed in order to grow tourism in the Highlands, and to contribute to the national vision and aspiration outlined in the national tourism strategy.
- 13.6.28 In 2014 the ATP has published an update to the plan; the Tourism Action Plan (ATP, 2014) to outline the priorities and activities that will be undertaken to grow tourism in the Highland area between 2014 and 2020.
- 13.6.29 The plan states that:
- “The Highlands is one of Scotland’s strongest tourism products and as such can reasonably be expected to equal or exceed the national growth rate if the actions in the strategy and this plan are delivered. Based on the National Strategy growth ambitions this could mean that the value of tourism could grow from a level of £738m in 2012 to between £900m and £1.07bn by 2020.”*
- 13.6.30 The plan also identifies the following areas as offering opportunities to develop tourism within THC:
- Nature, heritage & Activities;
 - Destinations, Town & Cities;
 - Events & Festivals; and
 - Business Tourism.

Tourism and Recreation

- 13.6.31 The tourism and recreation study area includes an area 15 km around the Proposed Development; detailed information regarding the tourism economy and number of visitors within this area are not available. On that basis tourism economy and visitor information are provided for the regional and national areas (Highland and Scotland) to provide some context.

Tourism Economy

- 13.6.32 Tourism and recreation have an economic impact as the spending of visitors will support jobs and generate GVA through their spending. The spending of visitors will impact on a wide range of

sectors, Sustainable Tourism has been defined and this is one of the Growth Sectors that have been highlighted by the Scottish Government as of particular importance to the Scottish economy.

- 13.6.33 The employment and gross value added (GVA) of the Sustainable Tourism sector is given Table 13.11 for both the Highland and Scotland. This shows that the tourism sector supported 16,000 jobs and £316.5 million GVA in the Highland in 2017. Across Scotland, the sector supported 218,000 jobs in 2017 and over £4.1 billion GVA.

Table 13.11 – Sustainable Tourism GVA and Employment 2017

	Highland Council	Scotland
Employment (jobs)	16,000	218,000
GVA	£316.5m	£4,127m

Source: Growth Sector Statistics (Scottish Government, 2019d)

Visitors & Spends

- 13.6.34 The number of visitors and average spends statistics for the Highland and Scotland are provided in Table 13.12 below.

Table 13.12 – Visitors and Spends Statistics – 2017/2018

	Highland Council	Scotland
Visits (000s)	521	3,538
Spend (£m)	195	2,206
Nights (000s)	2,084	24,237
Average Length of Stay	4 nights	6.9 nights
Average Spend per Day (£)	93	91
Average Spend per Visit (£)	374	624

Source: Insight Department Highland Factsheet (Visit Scotland, 2019)

- 13.6.35 As shown in Table 13.12, the daily average spend is higher by £2 in the highlands compared to the Scotland average, however the average spend per visit is significantly lower; this can be explained by visitor only spending part of their stay in Scotland in the Highland as illustrated by the average length of stay of 4 nights for the Highland and 6.9 nights for Scotland as whole.

- 13.6.36 The Highland account for 8.6% of the nights and 8.8% of the spends in Scotland tourism.

Tourism Attractions

- 13.6.37 The following visitor attractions are located within 15 km radius of the Proposed Development (refer to Figure 13.2). The list below is based on a desk based review of publicly available information and should not be treated as exhaustive.

1. Falls of Shin – waterfall on the River Shin, 11.7 km south of the Proposed Development;
2. Go wild Highlands – outdoor activities provider, 8.6 km south of the Proposed Development;

3. Ferrycroft Visitor Centre, 8.1 km south of the Proposed Development;
4. Dalchork Forest Trails, 6.6 km south of the Proposed Development;
5. Sutherland Sporting Tweed Company – traditional tweed and clothing/tailor shop, 7.5 km south of the Proposed Development;
6. The rusty Coo – gift shop, 7.5 km south of the Proposed Development;
7. The Lairg Triangle – cycling/walking/hiking route, 7.6 km south of the Proposed Development;
8. Assynt & Loch Circuit - cycling/walking/hiking route, 7.5 km south of the Proposed Development;
9. Lairg Angling Club – fishing club, 6.6 km south of the Proposed Development;
10. The Ord Archaeology Trail, 8.3 km south of the Proposed Development;
11. Lairg Crofters Show, 7.8 km south of the Proposed Development;
12. Dalchork Bird Hide, 8km south of the Proposed Development;
13. Ben Kilbreck, 15 km north of the Proposed Development;
14. Loch Shin Bird Hide, 4.3 km south of the Proposed Development;
15. Crask Viewpoint, 10.5 north-west of the Proposed Development; and
16. Cnoc an Alaskie interpretation, 12.6 north-west of the Proposed Development.

Visitor Accommodation

13.6.38 The following visitor accommodations are located within 15 km radius of the Proposed Development (refer to Figure 13.2). The list below is based on a desk-based review of publicly available information and should not be treated as exhaustive.

- Hotels

17. Lairg Highland Hotel, 7.7 km south of the Proposed Development; and
18. The Crask Inn, 10.8 km south-west of the Proposed Development;

- Bed & Breakfast / Cottage / Self-catering

19. Carnbren Bed & Breakfast (B&B), 8.5 km south of the Proposed Development;
20. Park House B&B, 7.8 km south of the Proposed Development;
21. Lochview B&B, 6.5 km south of the Proposed Development;
22. Shinness Lodge, 3.5 km west of the Proposed Development; and
23. Benmore Cottage, 7.7 km south of the Proposed Development;
24. Phils House, 6.5 km south of the Proposed Development;
25. Reid's Cottage, 6.5 km south of the Proposed Development;
26. Cairnmuir, 9.6 km south of the Proposed Development;
27. Cottage Scottish Highlands, 8.3 km south of the Proposed Development;
28. The Wee Hoose, 7.7 km south of the Proposed Development;
29. Burn Cottage, 7.8 km south of the Proposed Development;

- 30. Glenrossal, 14.5 km south-west of the Proposed Development;
- 31. Sallachy Lodge, 8.7 km south-west of the Proposed Development; and
- 32. Ben Armine Lodge, 13 km north-east of the Proposed Development.
 - Camp site/Caravan Park
- 33. Duroamin Caravan Park, 7.8 km south of the Proposed Development;
- 34. Pondsides Camping & Accommodation, 3.0 km south of the Proposed Development;
- 35. Loch Shin Luxury Pods, 2.3 km south-west of the Proposed Development;
- 36. Woodend Caravan & Camping site, 2.2 km south-west of the Proposed Development; and
- 37. Grunmmore Caravan club Site, 2.2 km south-west of the Proposed Development.
 - Estates (also considered as tourism attractions)
- 38. The Lairg Estate, 6.5 km south of the Proposed Development; and
- 39. The Dalnessie Estate, 4.7 km east of the Proposed Development.

Paths and Access

- 13.6.39 There are a series of core paths, rights of way, heritage path, hill tracks, cycle and other recreational routes within the study area (refer to Figure 13.3). The routes which lie in close proximity (within 5km) to the site boundary include:
- Heritage Path Strath Tirry to Badanloch Tracks;
 - Scottish Hill Tracks number 341 Lairg to Crask Inn by Loch Choire; and
 - National Cycle Route 1.
- 13.6.40 Heritage Path Strath Tirry to Badanloch Tracks and Scottish Hill Tracks number 341 Lairg to Crask Inn by Loch Choire follows the same path along the Dalnessie track (follows the southern site boundary).
- 13.6.41 It is considered that the majority of visitors to the area will use the defined paths, tracks and the cycle route, and not directly access the site.

Other Tourism Locations

- 13.6.42 The followings receptors are also relevant with regard to tourism & recreation:
- The town of Lairg;
 - The three major A roads which allow tourists to visit the area:
 - the A839 which runs from The Mound on the eastern shore of Scotland to Aucharrigill;
 - the A386 from Bonnar Bridge to the North of Scotland; and
 - the A838 from Dalchork to Laxford Bridge.
- It is however noted that none are specifically designated as a Tourist Route (Refer to Figure 13.2).
- Main route up Ben Kilbreck mountain peak which lies just under 15 km north of the Proposed Development.
- 13.6.43 The above are shown on Figure 13.3.

Tourism Summary

- 13.6.44 The tourism activity in the local area is mainly focused on areas around Lairg and Loch Shin. Although Loch Shin is close to the site, the tourism activity is concentrated on the loch around Lairg and therefore generally distant from the Proposed Development. The town of Lairg, is appr. 8 km south of the Proposed Development and has the highest concentration of tourism activity and accommodation within the study area.
- 13.6.45 The Heritage Path Strath Tirry to Badanloch Tracks, Scottish Hill Tracks number 341 Lairg to Crask Inn by Loch Choire and National Cycle Route 1 lie immediately next to the site. There are no other tourism and recreation receptors within the study area.

13.7 Standard Mitigation

- 13.7.1 There are no Standard Mitigation practices for Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Impacts; however; the following mitigation and enhancement measures have been embedded in the Proposed Development proposal:
- Maximising local supply chain opportunities wherever possible, through applying a positive weighting in the tender process to contractors who offer local benefits; and
 - Implementation of a CTMP for general construction traffic and a TMP for abnormal loads in order to minimise construction-phase disruption to the local transport network, cycling and pedestrian amenity.
 - Implementation of a CEMP and OEMP to protect visitors and recreational users during construction and subsequent operations.

13.8 Receptors Brought Forward for Assessment

- 13.8.1 The receptors that have been brought forward for assessment are:
- The local economy and community (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross);
 - the economy of the Highlands; and
 - Tourism and recreational receptors within 15 km of the Proposed Development.

13.9 Potential Effects

- 13.9.1 Potential socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects arising from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development are set out in the following sections. It is anticipated that effects from decommissioning will be similar to construction although on a reduced scale and of shorter duration. On that basis, we are of the opinion that the impact of decommissioning is unlikely to result in a significant effect (adverse or beneficial). Therefore, the impacts associated with decommissioning have been scoped out of the EIA.
- 13.9.2 RenewableUK published a report in 2015 (Renewable UK, 2015), which included information on the estimated number of FTE jobs and GVA generated from onshore wind farms at each stage of their development, based on their installed capacity. The report assessed the direct economic impacts as well as indirect effects i.e. those associated with the supply chain. This information is summarised in Table 13.13.

Table 13.13 – Economic Contribution per MW (UK Economy)

Project phase	FTE Jobs per MW installed capacity	GVA per MW installed capacity (£ per annum)
Development	0.54	40,631

Project phase	FTE Jobs per MW installed capacity	GVA per MW installed capacity (£ per annum)
Construction	2.49	159,251
Operation & Maintenance	0.43	22,347

13.9.3 The RenewableUK (Renewable UK, 2015) report also includes information on the estimated location of the economic contributions. This information is summarised in Table 13.14.

Table 13.14 – Economic Contribution per Location

Project phase	Local	National/Regional
Development	13%	59%
Construction	12%	36%
Operation & Maintenance	42%	58%

Development & Construction

Financial benefit through increased employment and use of the local supply chain

13.9.4 Using the estimates in Table 13.13 and Table 13.14, the development stage of a 16.8 MW onshore wind farm project could generate 50.9 FTE jobs and a GVA of £3.36M per year during the construction phase of the Proposed Development (12 months).

13.9.5 In accordance with Renewable UK (Renewable UK, 2015) 12% of the FTE jobs and GVA generated during the construction phase could be applied in the local area. Therefore, the Proposed Development has the potential to create 6.2 FTE jobs for the local area, and a local GVA of approximately £409,788 per year during the construction period.

13.9.6 Construction contracts for the Proposed Development will be subject to a competitive tendering process. Typically, the principal contracts awarded include, but are not limited to:

- EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) or Balance of Plant (BoP);
- Turbine supply and installation; and
- Electrical engineering.

13.9.7 The Applicant is committed to maximising local supply chain opportunities wherever possible, through applying a positive weighting in the tender process to contractors who offer local benefits such as local employment creation and apprenticeships.

13.9.8 Direct and indirect (i.e. supply chain) employment creation and business opportunities represent short-term benefits to the local area during the construction stage. Additional indirect beneficial effects from direct employment during construction include salary spend by project workers, in the local area. Workers involved in the development and construction stages may choose to use local accommodation, restaurants, pubs, shops and other services, leading to beneficial effects from increased local trade.

13.9.9 The financial benefit to the community through increased employment and use of the local supply chain during the development and construction phases of the Proposed Development are assessed as being temporary, and of **minor beneficial** significance.

Disruption or severance to tourist amenity

- 13.9.10 There are no main tourist destinations in the immediate proximity of the site, which have the potential to be affected by construction-phase impacts such as disruption from construction traffic. Anticipated construction traffic is discussed further in Chapter 12, concluding that there will be no significant adverse residual effects on the local transport network. The sensitivity of identified tourist receptors in the Study Area ranges from negligible to medium in accordance with Table 13.2 the magnitude of impact of the construction of the Proposed Development on tourist amenity is considered to be negligible, resulting in a temporary adverse effect of **negligible adverse** significance.
- 13.9.11 Other tourism receptors in the Study Area will be unaffected by the construction of the Proposed Development.

Disruption to Recreational Activity

- 13.9.12 National Cycle Route 1 may be affected by traffic during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. The cycle route may be affected by increased numbers of vehicles accessing the site access. Access will be maintained during construction, with any conflict with construction traffic being prevented through appropriate traffic management. This will be managed through the implementation of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for general construction traffic and a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for abnormal loads (which could form part of the CTMP). The magnitude of impact is therefore likely to be low, on a medium sensitivity receptor, resulting in a temporary adverse effect of **minor adverse** significance.
- 13.9.13 The Heritage Path, Strath Tirry to Badanloch Tracks and Scottish Hill Tracks number 341 Lairg to Crask Inn by Loch Choire lie along the southern boundary of the site, taking access from the A836. Construction phase activities will not require closure, or limit access to and from the tracks and therefore no impacts are anticipated. There are therefore **no effects** upon access to these tracks as a result of the Proposed Development.

Operation

Potential effects of the operational development on tourism

- 13.9.14 Certain tourism receptors in the Study Area will experience a change in their settings, where the Proposed Development is visible and noticeable at the receptor location. Visibility of the Proposed Development, and potential effects on the landscape character and visual amenity are discussed in full in Chapter 6. Impacts upon cultural heritage assets are discussed in Chapter 11.
- 13.9.15 Several studies have been undertaken on the potential impact of onshore wind farms on tourism. The most recent of these is the 2016 BIGGAR Economics study, Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland (BIGGAR, 2016). This study identified that, between 2009 and 2013, both tourism employment and onshore wind installed capacity increased, and that there was no clear relationship between the growth in the onshore wind sector and growth in the tourism sector. The report notes that *"some of the Local Authorities with the greatest growth in tourism employment also saw the greatest rise in onshore wind installations"*, although no overall relationship between these two factors was established.
- 13.9.16 An earlier submission to the Scottish Government's 2012 Renewables Inquiry by the University of the West of England (Aitchison, 2012), which analysed previous research on the actual and potential effects on wind farms on tourism, also concluded that there will be no overall negative or positive effect to tourism in an area of wind farm development.
- 13.9.17 On this basis and using professional judgement it can be reasonably concluded that the effect on tourism, will be **negligible adverse**. This is considered to be a conservative approach, as the effect may indeed be neutral (i.e. neither adverse or beneficial)

Potential effects of the operational development on specific tourism receptors

- 13.9.18 Figure 13.2 shows the identified tourism receptors within 15 km of the Proposed Development. Given the nature of the local tourism activities, it is considered unlikely that the presence of a wind farm in the wider landscape would be a significant consideration particularly taking account of the existence of several consented and operational wind energy developments within the local area.
- 13.9.19 With respect to tourist services including accommodation, restaurants and pubs, visitors and prospective patrons of services in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development would undoubtedly notice the presence of the Proposed Development. However, based on the above-noted research, there is no evidence to indicate that its operation will affect visitor numbers or repeat visits within the local area or wider region.
- 13.9.20 The potential effect of the operational phase of the Proposed Development on tourism receptors in the Study Area is considered, using professional judgement and a conservative estimate to be **negligible adverse**. This is considered to be a conservative approach, as the effect may indeed be neutral (i.e. neither adverse or beneficial)
- 13.9.21 As shown on Figure 6.10 the Proposed Development will be visible from the summit (the main features of this asset) and across some areas of Ben Kilbreck. The summit is just under 15 km north of the Proposed Development, and the turbines will appear quite small in the view and in the context of the wider landscape. On that basis and from a tourism perspective, the effect of the Proposed Development is likely to be negligible adverse, if indeed there is any effect.

Potential effects of the operational development on recreational receptors

- 13.9.22 Similarly, to tourism receptors, certain recreational receptors in the Study Area will experience a change in their settings, where the Proposed Development is visible and noticeable. Users of local walking and cycling routes in the vicinity will notice the presence of the wind farm, although its operation will not directly impact on or curtail use of local paths and routes. Given that there are a number of existing consented and operational wind energy developments within the local area, the sensitivity of users of local walking and cycling routes to the introduction of a new operational wind farm is considered to be low.
- 13.9.23 The potential effect of the operational development on recreational receptors in the Study Area is considered to be **negligible adverse**.

13.10 Additional Mitigation and Enhancement

- 13.10.1 Given that no significant adverse potential effects have been predicted, no additional mitigation measures are considered to be required. The followings financial benefits for the local community are anticipated.

Financial benefit to the community through increased employment

- 13.10.2 As set out in Table 13.13; the operational phase of an onshore wind development can be expected to generate 0.43 FTE jobs and £22,347 GVA per MW of installed capacity, in the UK economy. The Proposed Development could therefore create 7.2 FTE jobs (both directly and through the supply chain) and generate a GVA of £375,430 in the UK economy annually. Based on a project lifetime of 30 years, the Proposed Development could generate 216.7 job-years and a GVA of £11.26m in the UK economy over its operational phase.
- 13.10.3 The Renewable UK (Renewable UK, 2015) report estimates that 42% of the GVA and jobs created during the operational phase could be retained in the local area. This means that the Proposed Development could generate 91.0 local job (3.0 FTE jobs each year) and £4.73m GVA to the local economy over its 30-year operational phase.
- 13.10.4 Similarly, to the construction stage, there will also be indirect beneficial effects arising from the direct employment during the 30-year operational lifetime of the Proposed Development through workers using local services and spending salaries in the local area.

Community Benefits

- 13.10.5 The Proposed Development is expected to contribute towards the fulfilment of the aspirations of local communities, through the payment of community benefits.
- 13.10.6 Guidance on the allocation of community benefits and on the legal structure of community benefit funds is discussed in:
- Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments (Scottish Government, 2014); and
 - Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments (Scottish Government, 2019e).
- 13.10.7 In particular, (Scottish Government, 2014) sets out the different types of governance structure that a community benefit fund could take. These include:
- community councils;
 - a community body created specifically for the project;
 - an existing body that is reorganised so as to take up the role; and
 - a specialist third party organisation.
- 13.10.8 The Scottish Government (Scottish Government, 2019) recommends that for similar projects the annual contribution to the community benefit fund would be £5,000 per MW. The final amount to be paid into the community benefit fund by the Applicant will therefore be subject to the installed capacity (subject to turbine availability etc.). On the basis of 16.8 MW of capacity, the community would receive £84,000 each year over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, which for the 30 years lifetime results in a total of £2.52m. This would support local projects and the aspirations of communities in the local area.
- 13.10.9 The magnitude of the economic impact associated with this funding will be dependent on the projects and activities that it supports. For example, projects and activities that improve skills, connectivity or infrastructure in the local area can stimulate greater economic activity and productivity.
- 13.10.10 As an illustration of the level of employment that could be supported, figures from the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) indicate that the average turnover per full-time equivalent staff member in the voluntary sector is £54,300 (SCVO, 2018). By applying this ratio to the annual funding it was estimated that almost 1.5 FTE jobs could be supported in the voluntary sector by a community fund of this scale.

Landowner Contribution

- 13.10.11 In addition, to the Community Benefit Fund that will be put forward, the landowner has also pledged to contribute one year of Community Benefit Funding to a Local Infrastructure Fund. The landowner is keen to invest in the local area and has committed to providing a contribution of £20,000 in the year that the turbines are installed, with five subsequent annual contributions to the Local Infrastructure Fund. This fund will be for the benefit of the immediate neighbours in Blairbuie and the wider Shinness area, for projects such as amenity improvements and energy efficiency.

13.11 Residual Effects

- 13.11.1 No additional mitigation measures are proposed, beyond those embedded mitigation and enhancement as described above and already taken into account in the assessment of potential effects. Residual socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects are therefore assessed as being the same as the potential effects, namely:
- Construction Phase:

- Short-term minor beneficial effects from generation of employment and economic activity,
 - Short-term negligible adverse effects on tourist amenities,
 - Short-term minor adverse effects on users of the adjacent National Cycle Route 1 during construction, and
 - No effects on recreation receptors.
- Operational Phase:
 - Negligible adverse effects on tourism and recreation receptors, and

13.12 Cumulative Assessment

- 13.12.1 There are a number of consented and proposed wind energy developments within the local area, as described in detail in Chapter 6 and shown on Figure 6.7a. There is therefore potential for cumulative beneficial effects from job creation and economic activity during the development, construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development together with other developments in the area. It is considered unlikely that the cumulative effect would increase beyond minor beneficial significance.
- 13.12.2 The Proposed Development may generate some visual effects on recreation and tourism receptors, during its operational phase (Refer to Chapter 6). However, based on the principle of wind farms having already been established in the wider area and the fact that there are no evidence of wind farm developments impacting tourism and recreation, the cumulative effect on the tourism and recreation receptors likely to be affected by the Proposed Development or their resulting recreational or visiting patterns is assessed as being negligible.

13.13 Summary

- 13.13.1 Potential socio-economic effects from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development have been assessed.
- 13.13.2 The Proposed Development has the potential to generate locally at least 6.2 local FTE jobs during its construction phase, and 91.0 jobs over its 30-year operational lifetime (3 FTE jobs per year). The development also has the potential to generate economic activity in the local area, estimated to be at least £409,788 GVA during the construction phase, and £4.73m GVA during the operational phase. Additional indirect beneficial effects from direct employment include salary spend by project workers, in the local area. The Applicant has committed to maximising local supply chain opportunities wherever possible, through applying a positive weighting in the tender process to contractors who offer local benefits.
- 13.13.3 Short-term minor beneficial effects from generation of employment and economic activity are predicted during the construction phase.
- 13.13.4 Based on a conservative approach; short-term negligible adverse effects on tourist amenities are anticipated during the construction phase.
- 13.13.5 Adverse construction phase recreational effects are limited to potential short-term disruption to the National Cycle Route 1. Potential effects will be managed through the implementation of a CTMP for general construction traffic and a TMP for abnormal loads, to be agreed in advance with THC. Construction-phase effects on the users of the National Cycle Route 1 are therefore assessed as short-term of minor adverse effects.
- 13.13.6 Construction phase effects have therefore been assessed as **not significant**.
- 13.13.7 Operational phase effects have all been assessed to be negligible adverse and therefore **not significant**.

13.13.8 Overall, the assessment concludes that the Proposed Development will result in no significant residual effects and no significant cumulative effects on socio-economic, tourism and recreational receptors.

Table 13.15 – Summary of Effects

Description of Effect	Significance of Potential Effect		Mitigation Measure	Significance of Residual Effect	
	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse		Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
Construction					
Generation of employment and economic activity	Minor	Beneficial	n/a	Minor	Beneficial
Disruption or severance to tourist amenity	Negligible	Adverse	n/a	Negligible	Adverse
Disruption to Recreational activity – impact on the National Cycle Route 1	Minor	Adverse	This will be managed through the implementation of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for general construction traffic and a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for abnormal loads (which could form part of the CTMP).	Minor	Adverse
Disruption to Recreational activity – others	No Effect	n/a	n/a	No Effect	n/a

Description of Effect	Significance of Potential Effect		Mitigation Measure	Significance of Residual Effect	
	Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse		Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
Operation					
Generation of employment and economic activity	Negligible	Beneficial	n/a	Negligible	Beneficial
Effect on tourism	Negligible	Adverse	n/a	Negligible	Adverse
Effect on specific tourism receptors	Negligible	Adverse	n/a	Negligible	Adverse
Effect on recreational receptors	Negligible	Adverse	n/a	Negligible	Adverse

Table 13.16 – Summary of Cumulative Effects

Receptor	Effect	Cumulative Developments	Significance of Cumulative Effect	
			Significance	Beneficial/ Adverse
Socio-Economic / Local community	Generation of employment and economic activity	All wind farms within the local area	Minor	Beneficial
Tourism and tourism receptors	Reduction in the number of visitors	All wind farms within the local area	Negligible	Adverse
Recreation receptors	Reduction in use	All wind farms within the local area	Negligible	Adverse

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