

Technical Appendix 4.4: Viewpoint Assessment

Technical Appendix 4.4: Viewpoint Assessment

- 1.1.1

This Technical Appendix sets out the findings of the detailed viewpoint assessment, carried out as part of the SLVIA for the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2

The Proposed Development is a renewable energy development comprised of up to eight wind turbines, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure adjacent to Sullom Voe Oil Terminal (SVT) and the Shetland Gas Plant in Shetland, Scotland. The assessment is based on the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**.
- 1.1.3

The findings of the viewpoint assessment are used to inform the overall assessment of effects of the SLVIA and were utilised in the design of mitigation measures discussed in **Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives (EIAR Volume 2)** and in the assessment of landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development (See **Chapter 4: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)**).
- 1.1.4

The viewpoints used in the assessment were agreed with the Energy Consents Unit (ECU), Shetland Islands Council (SIC), and NatureScot (NS) during a pre-scoping, scoping and post-scoping consultation exercise. The viewpoints are intended to reflect a range of receptor locations at different distances, directions, and elevations relative to the Site. The selected viewpoints are intended to represent the experience that receptors would have at recognised vantage points, within landscape character types and landscape designations, settlements, important transportation and recreational routes. They are not representative of all potential visibility across the Study Area.
- 1.1.5

An assessment of the potential effects on visual amenity arising from the Proposed Development at each of the agreed viewpoints was undertaken and the findings set out in **Table 4.4.1** below. These tables describe:

•

The viewpoint reference number and name;

•

The sensitivity of the visual receptors at each viewpoint;

•

The existing view from each location;

•

The nature of change to the view and cumulative context; and

•

The predicted operational view of the Proposed Development with other operational developments.
- 1.1.6

Visualisations for each of the viewpoints are illustrated on Figures **4.23a-f to 4.48a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)**. These images have been created in accordance with current NS guidance, and contain details of the location, elevation, bearing and distance of the viewpoint from the nearest proposed turbine. It should be noted that bearings of views may vary according to whether the view is centred on the Site centre (as in the case of the montaged images) or whether the Site is offset to take account of cumulative developments (i.e. in cumulative wireline images). Some limited enhancement of photography and photomontages has been undertaken. Where this has been undertaken enhancements have been limited to adjustments that would conventionally occur in a darkroom to improve the clarity of an image, not change its essential character.
- 1.1.7

The visualisations reflect the appearance of the Proposed Development at the time of the completion of construction works at the Site and include images showing the Proposed Development on its own set within the baseline view at the time of the photography for the LVIA, as well as in the context of existing, consented and proposed wind farms. In some images, due to meteorological conditions on the day of photography, existing development across the skyline in the view is not immediately discernible. Therefore, the Proposed Development has been presented at a higher contrast to not underplay the effects. While this assists in identifying the Proposed Development in the view, in actual views the

- Proposed Development would appear similar in colour to those in the baseline photography and would be less prominent in the view.
- 1.1.8

Note that Wethersta Wind Farm is shown as at Scoping stage on the visualisations (Figures 4.23a-f to 4.48a-f: Viewpoints 1 to 26 EIAR Volume 3b) but is assessed as In Planning in the cumulative assessment.

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment							
VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
1	Minor Track, North Roe (4.23a-4.23f)	12.52 km North north west	High Settlement and visitors	The viewpoint is situated on a minor road in the south east of the North Roe area of Shetland NSA. The focus of views from this location is south east across Burra Voe. There are views across the scattered community of North Roe where the enclosed pasture land contrasts with the rocky hills to the east of the A970 and the indented coastline at Ness of Houlland and Head of Calsta. There are electricity and telegraph lines on single wood poles and the A970 single track road is visible. Large scale development is absent in views at this location except in the direction of the Site where elements of SVT are visible including a flare stack. There are no operational wind farms visible.	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible to hub height. They would be seen beyond the open water of Yell Sound on low hills extending across a horizon with a regular horizontal emphasis. The proposed turbines would occupy a small part of available views. No cumulative wind farm development would be visible.	The Proposed Development would contrast with the undeveloped rural character of views. However, the proposed turbines would be perceived as relatively distant features separated from the viewpoint by an intervening expanse of sea. The proposed turbines would appear large relative to the lower landform on which they would be located and would be perceived in part of the view that is modified by industrial activity. The proposed turbines would be a minor focal point in views and would have a limited influence on the composition of views available at this location. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight.	The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point but would not be a competing influence in views of the coastline at Burra Voe and the enclosing rocky hills. The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant.
2	Mid Field Cairn (WLA) (4.24a-4.24f)	11.49 km North west	High Hillwalkers	The viewpoint is situated at a subsidiary hilltop (Mid Field) approximately 1.5 km east north east of the summit of Ronas Hill. The viewpoint is in Wild Land Area 42 Ronas Hill and North Roe. There are views all around from this location. Views northeast through south to southwest encompass large areas of open sea to the north of North Roe, Yell, and Unst. Yell Sound is a notable feature and the high cliffs in the northwest of Yell at West Sanwick to Gloup Local Landscape Area (LLA) are a notable feature beyond which the operational Garth Wind Farm is visible. Views in the direction of the Site encompass the seascape of islands, headlands and voes in the southern part of Yell Sound. SVT is a noticeable feature extending across a low coastal shelf with piers extending into the waters of Sullom Voe. Viking Wind Farm is visible as a distant feature to the southeast and operational Garth Wind Farm is discernible on Yell to the northeast.	The elevated position of the viewpoint means all eight of the proposed turbines would be visible adjacent to land based elements of SVT. The proposed turbines would be seen against a backdrop of sea and land introducing a different type of development into views. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible to the east and Energy Isles (Consented) would be a distant feature to the north. Other consented wind farms would not be readily discernible. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in the direction of the Proposed Development.	The Proposed Development would increase the influence of development in views from this location. The proposed turbines would occupy a similar extent of land as SVT although the turbine array would appear less dense than the cluster of buildings at SVT. With the exception of gravel access roads, the spaces between the wind turbines would be undeveloped and the array would be visually permeable. The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point in views. However, the large scale of the views, distance, and the available views all around means there would be modest change to the overall composition of views at this location. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight.	The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point and would be seen in association with SVT. It would add to the amount of development visible from this location introducing a greater degree of movement into views. The proposed turbines would be a focal point but would not substantially change the character and composition of views or result in any adverse scale comparisons with landform. The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant.
3	Ollaberry, St Magnus’ Church (4.25a-4.25f)	5.3 km North west	High Settlement and walkers	The viewpoint is situated to the east of St Magnus Church and Cemetery at the village of Ollaberry. The focus of views from this location is east across the Bay of Ollaberry and Yell Sound. There are also views south east and south along Sullom Voe to SVT and across to Gluss Isle. Views in other directions are truncated to a degree by landform and buildings although the outlooks are fairly open. Three small wind turbines are visible on the skyline to the northwest. There are no operational wind farms visible.	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible in views out across the Bay of Ollaberry. The Proposed Development would be a new focal point. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in the direction of the Proposed Development behind Gluss Isle.	The Proposed Development would introduce large scale wind turbines into views out from Ollaberry and across Yell Sound. Views are directed outward to the east and south east and the proposed turbines would result in notable change to the composition of views extending across a large part of the main outlook. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a notable focal point resulting in considerable change to the composition of views. The simple layout of turbines and their regular height and spacing mitigate effects to a degree as the number of overlapping turbines is limited. The undeveloped space between the wind turbines means that the array appears visually permeable and this also mitigates effects to a degree. The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant.
4	Yell, Ulsta Shetland Ferry Terminal (4.26a-4.26f)	4.73 km North east	High Visitors	The viewpoint is situated to the south of the car park at Ulsta ferry terminal on Yell. The main outlook from the viewpoint is to the west and south with open views across Yell Sound to the north west. Views to the north	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible in views. They would be seen beyond the open water of Yell Sound with the lower parts of the towers partly screened by low-lying landform.	The Proposed Development would be a notable new focal point in views from the ferry terminal. However, it would not be a dominant or overwhelming feature. Turbines in the array are at similar heights above ground level, and this regular profile fits the horizontal emphasis of the low islands	The Proposed Development would be a notable focal point resulting in considerable change to the composition of views. Ulsta ferry terminal is a modifying influence on views and the activity associated with ferry arrivals and departures means that human activity is evident and

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment							
VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				and east are truncated by gradually rising landform and buildings. The ferry terminal at Toft on Mainland is visible and a flare stack of SVT and two masts are visible above the intervening island of Bigga. Ronas Hill is visible to the northwest. A small part of operational Viking Wind Farm is visible to the south.	The Proposed Development would introduce a different type of development into views and would be a new focal point. Blade tips of Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be discernible behind the Proposed Development.	and coastline. However, the degree of change would be very noticeable. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	constant. SVT flare stack and masts also add to the human influences on the composition of views. However, the degree of change arising from the Proposed Development would be considerable. The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant .
5	Parking at Outrabister, Lunna Ness (4.27a-4.27f)	9.08 km South east	High Settlement and walkers	The viewpoint is situated in a car park south of Outrabister Farmstead, on the north eastern coast of Lunna Ness peninsula. The viewpoint is in the Lunna Ness and Lunning LLA. There are wide views from southwest to north west. These views encompass the seascape of offshore islands, headlands and voes in the southern part of Yell Sound. Views in other directions are enclosed and truncated by landform. There are electricity and telegraph lines on single wood poles and the B9071 single track road is visible. Large-scale development and settlement are generally absent from the view from this location, aside from Outrabister farmstead and its associated barns to the north, and distant parts of Mossbank village visible in the direction of the Site. Operational Viking Wind Farm would be visible in clear weather to the southwest.	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible to hub height. They would be seen beyond the open water of Yell Sound against a backdrop of land with the lower parts of the towers partly screened by the Mossbank peninsula. The Proposed Development would introduce a different type of development into views and would be a new focal point. Beaw Field (Consented) would be discernible to the north. A blade tip and nacelle of Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) turbines would be discernible in the direction of the Proposed Development.	The Proposed Development would contrast with the undeveloped rural and seascape character of the views. The turbines would be perceived as relatively distant—separated from the viewpoint by an intervening expanse of sea - but would still appear large relative to the low-lying land on which they would be sited. Although seen in part of the view already modified by settlement, the turbines would be large in scale compared with existing development and would form a noticeable focal point. However, the broad scale and extent of the panorama mean the overall composition of views at this location would be only modestly changed. The magnitude of change would be Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point and would be seen in association with Mossbank settlement. It would add to the amount of development visible from this location introducing a greater degree of movement and scale of development into views. The proposed turbines would be a focal point but would not substantially change the character and composition of views or result in any adverse scale comparisons with landform. The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant .
6	Gardaness Hill (4.28a-4.28f)	6.74 km South south east	High Hill walkers	The viewpoint is situated at the hilltop of Gardaness Hill. There are views all around from this location. To the southeast the view includes areas of enclosed and open sea east of the Main Isle and just north of the Lunna Ness Peninsula. Colla Firth is a notable feature, set beneath Colla Headland and Noness Head, with the long peninsula of the Lunna Ness and Lunning LLA visible beyond. The operational Viking Wind Farm lies in the distance to the south south west, and several salmon farms are visible within the firth and adjacent waters. Views in the direction of the Site encompass gently undulating moorland and rough grazing, with the Hills of Oxnabool, Neegarth, and Swinister forming a gently undulating ridgeline. No large-scale development or settlements are apparent from this viewpoint. Timber and wireline fencing occupy the immediate foreground whilst in the mid and background the A968, timber overhead lines and communications masts are noticeable features, with the mast and sections of overhead line breaking the skyline. Operational Viking Wind Farm is discernible on the skyline to the south.	All eight proposed turbines would be visible, six to hub height with partial visibility of one hub and blades only of another. They would be seen beyond the Hills of Oxnabool, Neegarth and Swinister, breaking the skyline, with the lower parts of the towers partially screened by the hills. The Proposed Development would introduce a different type of development into views but would occupy a small part of available views. Energy Isles (Consented) is unlikely to be readily discernible. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible to the northeast.	The Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind farm development in views from this location. The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point in views. However, the large scale of the views and the available views all around means there would be modest change to the overall composition of views at this location. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight.	The proposed turbines would be a focal point but would not substantially change the character and composition of views or result in any adverse scale comparisons with landform. The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant .

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment							
VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
7	Brough (4.29a-4.29f)	1.48 km East	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated to the north of a group of scattered residential properties at Brough to the north of Toft ferry terminal. The focus of views is towards Yell Sound and Yell. The viewpoint location is slightly elevated above Yell Sound and views encompass the length of the sound and many of the small islands are visible. In the direction of the Site views are truncated by rising terrain which forms a backdrop and low horizontal horizon. Against this backdrop and on the skyline telegraph poles and transmission poles are visible along with a telecommunication mast to the northeast. The contrast between green enclosed pasture and the brown of open moorland grazing is noticeable. There are no operational wind farms visible.	The nacelles of three proposed turbines and blades of five proposed turbines would be visible. The proposed turbines would be seen beyond intervening landform which would screen the lower parts of towers of three turbines and most of five turbines. Turbine 7 would appear closest to the viewpoint with Turbine 5 and Turbine 6 also appearing large. The proposed turbines would be a notable new focal point in views to the west but would not affect available views to the east which are the focus at this location. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible but with limited influence due to intervening distance.	The proposed turbines would occupy a moderate proportion of the view and would not affect the main outlook to the east across Yell Sound. The proposed turbines would be present on a simple, horizontal skyline beyond an area of pasture and rough grazing. The simple composition of existing views in the direction of the Proposed Development and the design of the array reduces the complexity of the image. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a prominent addition to views and would considerably alter the composition of views in one direction. However, the main outlook to the west would be unaltered. The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant.
8	Ferry Port Toft Revised Location (4.30a-4.30f)	1.26 km East	High Settlement and Visitors	The viewpoint is situated on the edge of the A968 where it turns east into Toft ferry terminal. The location is at a dip in terrain forming a small, shallow valley through which Burn of Toft flows east into Tofts Voe beside the pier. The focus of views is east to Tofts Voe and beyond to Yell Sound. The low lying island of Samphrey is visible in the middle distance which slightly truncates views in that direction. The ferry terminal and pier influence views and the movement of boats, traffic and activity around the ferry terminal also influence visual amenity. Views west to the Site are constrained to a degree by rising topography which shortens views. However, views are relatively open and large scale with small ruins visible at the edge of the moorland. The ground plane of the southeastern part of the Site is visible. There are no operational wind farms visible.	All eight turbines would be visible to nacelle height with upper parts only of the towers of Turbine 3 and Turbine 4 visible. Access roads and crane hardstandings would be visible although not uncharacteristic of this area of grazing land. The proposed turbines would be seen in large scale views where the existing view composition is simple and with a horizontal emphasis. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible from this locality but with limited influence due to intervening distance.	The Proposed Development would be a new focal point in views to the west from this location. The proposed turbines would occupy a moderate proportion of available views resulting in a considerable but not fundamental change to the composition of views. The main outlook across Tofts Voe to Yell Sound would not be affected. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a prominent addition to views and would considerably alter the composition of views in one direction. All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible with most of them seen from the bottom of tower to blade tip. The residual effect would be Major and Significant.
9	Vantage Point by Houb of Scatsta (4.31a-4.31f)	4.03 km South west	Medium Road users	The viewpoint is situated at a lay-by beside the B9076 at Houb of Scatsta to the south west of Graven. The location is a recognised Vantage Point on OS mapping. The focus of views is northwest across Houb of Scatsta, which is a shallow lagoon, across Voe of Scatsta to the open expanse of Sullom Voe. Views are of gently sloping, low lying hills and headlands that form layers of intervening ridges extending into Sullom Voe. Large sheds are visible at Scatsta airfield to the south west. Piers and cranes are visible to the north at SVT which extends across a large part of the view to the northeast. Flare stacks and masts are visible in the direction of the Site along with parts of SVT and industrial development at Sella Ness. There are no operational wind farms visible.	The nacelles of seven proposed turbines and blade only of Turbine 4 would be visible. The proposed turbines would be seen on a simple horizontal skyline alongside two flare stacks of SVT and beyond the industrial development at Sella Ness and the oil terminal. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in the direction of the Proposed Development and seen in the context of SVT.	The proposed turbines would introduce a new type of development to views at this location. However, large scale development is a feature of views and influences the part of the view in which the proposed turbines would be introduced. The main outlook to Sullom Voe would not be affected. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a very noticeable new feature on the skyline in part of the view that is already strongly influenced by industrial development. It would be uncharacteristic of views and would be a notable additional focal point in the locality. The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant.

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment							
VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
10	Cairn at Hill of Graven (4.32a-4.32f)	4.01 km South south east	High Hillwalkers	The viewpoint is situated at a chambered cairn at Hill of Graven. The viewpoint is accessed across open moorland and there is no core path leading to the cairn. The focus of views is north. The eye is drawn along Sullom Voe to Ronas Hill in the distance. In the mid-ground, industrial development at Sella Ness is very noticeable as is SVT which strongly influences views in the direction of the Site where a flare stack is prominent on the hill above Garths Voe. There are no operational wind farms visible.	All eight turbines would be visible to nacelle height with upper parts only of the towers of Turbine 4 and Turbine 7 visible. The proposed turbines would be seen behind existing flare stacks of SVT and be perceived adjacent to industrial buildings and roads. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible but with limited influence due to intervening distance. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in the direction of the Proposed Development and seen in the context of SVT.	The proposed turbines would be a new focal point in views towards SVT. The Proposed Development would be associated with existing development in the locality and while it would introduce a new type of development it would not be out of scale with existing features or landform. The main outlook to Sullom Voe would not be affected. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a very noticeable new feature on the skyline in part of the view that is already influenced by industrial development. It would be uncharacteristic of views and would be a notable additional focal point in the locality. The main outlooks to Sullom Voe and Ronas Hill would not be affected The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant.
11	Minor Road between Southlee and Graven (4.33a-4.33f)	3.71 km South	Medium Road users	The viewpoint is situated at an elevated part of the minor road that links scattered properties east of Graven with the B9076. Views are large scale and elevated looking across the head of the valley of North Burn. The eye is led west down the valley to Sullom Voe where industrial development at Sella Ness and SVT are an influencing factor. Views in the direction of the Site are partly truncated by intervening landform with flare stacks visible on the skyline. There are no operational wind farms visible.	The nacelles of seven proposed turbines and blade only of Turbine 4 would be visible. The proposed turbines would be seen in the middle distance behind intervening landform which would screen all proposed infrastructure at ground level. The proposed turbines would be perceived as comparable in height to existing flare stacks present in the view. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible but with limited influence due to intervening distance. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in the direction of the Proposed Development and seen in the context of SVT.	The proposed turbines would be a new focal point introducing a new type of development into part of the view where industrial development has a limited influence. The proposed turbines would occupy a relatively moderate extent of available views where the landform is large in scale and the composition of the view is simple. The magnitude of change would be Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point introducing development into part of the view where existing development and focal points are limited to flare stacks. The large scale of the landscape and simple composition of views in the direction of the Proposed Development mitigates effects to a degree. The residual effect would be Moderate and Significant.
12	Crooksetter Hill, chambered cairn near NW summit of SM3608 (4.34a-4.34f)	0.61 km South	High Hillwalkers	The viewpoint is situated near the summit of Hill of Crooksetter within the Site. There are open views all around encompassing the southern part of Yell Sound, the islands of Bigga and Yell to the east. To the south there are views of open, rolling moorland with lochs. To the west views are dominated by SVT including two nearby flare stacks. Views in the direction of the Site look across an area of gradually sloping moorland to Yell Sound with small islands visible in the sound and a backdrop of overlapping headlands and ridges extending into the sea. There are no operational wind farms visible.	All eight proposed turbines would be visible from the base of the tower to blade tip. Proposed tracks would be visible and crane hardstandings would be noticeable at the bases of Turbines 5-8. The proposed turbines would become the defining feature of views north from Hill of Crooksetter. The wide spacing of turbines means that views to Yell Sound, small islands and the backdrop of low hills would still be visible. Energy Isles (Consented) and Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible but with limited influence due to intervening distance. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable to the west and seen as part of SVT.	The proposed turbines would result in substantial change to views north from Hill of Crooksetter. The industrial development at SVT occupies part of available views being a dominant feature to the west. The Proposed Development would introduce further large-scale development but the simple design and wide spacing between the proposed turbines creates a looser form of development that would not interrupt distant views or over intensify the perceived change in land use. The magnitude of change would be Substantial.	The Proposed Development would substantially change views to the north increasing the amount of development visible in views from Hill of Crooksetter. Wider views to Yell Sound and across rolling moorlands to the south would not be affected. The residual effect would be Major and Significant affecting part of available views.
13	North Gluss (4.35a-4.35f)	6.26 km West	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated on a minor road that passes through the small settlement of North Gluss to the west of Gluss Ayre and to the south of Ollaberry. The viewpoint is elevated and the focus of views is east and northeast towards Sullom Voe and Yell Sound. Views are influenced mainly by	All eight proposed turbines would be visible from the lower part of the tower to blade tip. The proposed turbines would be seen on a horizontal part of the horizon and close to SVT.	The proposed turbines would be a very noticeable new focal point in part of the view where existing development is an influencing factor. The large-scale landform and simple horizontal horizon mean that the proposed turbines would not conflict with the scale or complexity of the view composition.	The Proposed Development although noticeable would not be a dominant focal point or substantially influence wider available views. It would be seen as a minor new focal point separated from the viewpoint by landform and intervening distant and associated with existing development in that locality.

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment							
VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				the rolling topography and rough grazing land surrounding the viewpoint and the longer distance views of Sullom Voe and Yell Sound. Three small wind turbines are visible to the north above the village of Ollaberry. Views in the direction of the Site are influenced by SVT and piers. Operational Viking Wind Farm is discernible to the south.	The proposed turbines would be introduced into the main outlook in which development is already a notable part of the view composition. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible in the direction of the Proposed Development but with limited influence due to intervening distance. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in the direction of the Proposed Development and seen in the context of SVT.	The proposed turbines would occupy a moderate part of available views and would be a notable focal point in a large-scale landscape. The magnitude of change would be Moderate.	The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant .
14	Minor Road south of Sullom (4.36a-4.36f)	7.22 km West south west	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated on the minor road that passes through a lightly settled area on the west side of Sullom Voe between Haggrister and Sullom. The focus of views is northeast along Sullom Voe and south along the voe. Views are large scale and encompass low-lying hills and headlands that overlap and extend into the sea. Views north through to south west are truncated to varying degrees by gradually rising terrain that limits longer distance views. Views in the direction of the Site are influenced by SVT which is visible at the fringes of the voe with associated flare stacks and masts visible on the skyline. Operational Viking Wind Farm although not visible from the viewpoint location is visible from the locality.	All eight proposed turbines would be visible with the lower parts of towers screened by landform. The proposed turbines would be seen behind SVT occupying the same part of the view as the existing development. Beaw Field (Consented) would barely be discernible in the direction of the Proposed Development. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in front of the Proposed Development and seen in the context of SVT.	The proposed turbines would be a noticeable new feature occupying a small part of the available views. The proposed turbines would be perceived as part of existing development at SVT. While the proposed turbines would introduce a new type of development it would not be wholly uncharacteristic of the scale of development in that part of the view. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight .	The Proposed Development would be a minor new focal point associated with existing development at SVT. It would be seen in views along Sullom Voe but would occupy a small part of the view and wider views along the undeveloped coastline and interior moorland would be unaffected. The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant .
15	A970 Layby, Burraland (4.37a-4.37f)	8.16 km West	High Visitors Medium Road users	The viewpoint is situated at a layby on the east side of the A970 between Brae and Hillswick. The viewpoint is elevated and the main focus is down a valley and across Loch of Burraland towards SVT. The oil terminal is a minor focal point in views which encompass smooth undulating moorland to the east contrasting with rugged, rocky hills to the west. The wireline on Figure 4.37b: Viewpoint 15: A970 Layby, Burraland (EIAR Volume 3b) indicates that blade tips of operational Viking Wind Farm are theoretically visible. These are unlikely to be readily discernible in views.	The nacelles of all eight turbines would be visible. Turbine 3 and Turbine 4 would be screened by landform up to nacelle height. The remaining six turbines would be visible from mid tower height to blade tip. The proposed turbines would be seen behind SVT and piers. The turbines would therefore occupy a part of the view characterised by development. Beaw Field (Consented) would barely be discernible in the direction of the Proposed Development. Energy Isles (Consented) is unlikely to be readily discernible. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in front of the Proposed Development and seen in the context of SVT.	The proposed turbines would be a noticeable new feature occupying a small part of the available views. They would be present in the main outlook from this location and would be perceived as part of existing development at SVT. While the proposed turbines would introduce a new type of development it would not be wholly uncharacteristic of the scale of development in that part of the view. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight.	The Proposed Development would be a minor new focal point associated with existing development at SVT. It would be seen in the main outlook from this location but would occupy a small part of the view. The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant .
16	Busta Road, Ladies Mire (4.38a-4.38f)	11.11 km South west	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated on a minor road off the A970 at the western end of the village of Brae. The main outlook is to the east which encompasses the head of Busta Voe and the village of Brae sweeping around the east side	The wireline shown on Figure 4.38e: Viewpoint 16: Busta Road, Ladies Mire (EIAR Volume 3b) indicates that nacelles of four turbines and blades or blade tips only of four turbines would be seen. However, the photomontage shown on Figure 4.38f: Viewpoint 16: Busta	The proposed turbines would be seen as a minor feature in widely available views from this location which include the operational Viking Wind Farm. Landform would screen most of the Proposed Development from view and it would occupy a small part of view and not influence the main outlook to the east along Busta Voe.	The Proposed Development would be a minor new feature in views. It would not be uncharacteristic of views as operational Viking Wind Farm is a noticeable feature to the southeast and a small wind turbine is visible above Brae in views towards the Proposed Development.

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment

VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				of the Voe to a backdrop of rounded hills and low horizontal ridges. Views in the direction of the Site are truncated in the mid-ground by low rounded hills. Infrastructure at SVT is not visible although a flare stack is noticeable at a gap between hills. Operational Viking Wind Farm is a noticeable feature extending across a large part of the view to the southeast and a small wind turbine is visible above Brae.	Road, Ladies Mire (EIAR Volume 3b) indicates that the blades and blade tips of Turbines 2-5 would barely be discernible. Turbine 1 and Turbines 6-8 would be visible at a gap between landform behind the village of Brae. The proposed turbines would be separated from Brae and its environs by terrain and intervening distance overlapping partly with an existing flare stack which is just visible. A blade tip and nacelle of Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) turbines would be discernible in the direction of the Proposed Development. Hill of Wethersta (In Planning) would be visible at to the southeast at the south end of Brae.	The magnitude of change would be Slight.	The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant.
17	Minor Road - Newhouse, Lunna Ness (4.39a-4.39f)	9.33 km South east	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated on the minor road that links the settled Lunna Ness peninsula with the B9071 at Vidlin. The focus of views is south west through to north west encompassing the sheltered waters of Boatsroom Voe and Hamna Voe and the southern part of Yell Sound. To the south west, Ness of Setter encloses views to a degree and an aquaculture jetty is visible at the head of Boatsroom Voe. Views in the direction of the Site are truncated to a degree by Ness of Setter. Through gaps in terrain and above intervening landform there are longer distance views of a horizontal ridge with the flare stacks of SVT visible on the horizon. A single turbine of operational Viking Wind Farm is potentially visible.	The wireline shown on Figure 4.39e: Viewpoint 17: Minor road - Newhouse, Lunna Ness (EIAR Volume 3b) indicates that seven proposed turbines would be visible above mid tower height with Turbine 3 appearing further away with the nacelle and part of the upper tower visible. Turbine 3, Turbine 6 and Turbine 7 would overlap while the remaining proposed turbines would be spaced apart and seen as a line of turbines on an intermediate ridge. No cumulative wind farm development would be visible.	The proposed turbines would occupy a small part of the main outlook from this location. They would be seen behind Mossbank which is visible on the coastline in front of the proposed turbines and separated from them by terrain. The proposed turbines would occupy a small part of the view and would be a noticeable but minor focal point. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight.	The Proposed Development would be a minor new focal point in part of the main outlook from this location. It would introduce a new form of development into views but would not result in considerable change to the composition of views experienced at this location. It would be seen in the main outlook from this location but would occupy a small part of the view. The residual effect would therefore be Moderate and Not Significant.
18	Yell, A968/NCR1 (4.40a-4.40f)	7.27 km East	Medium Road users	The viewpoint is situated on the A968 on the west side of Yell. The locality is sparsely populated and the viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users. The viewpoint location is elevated and the focus of views is south west through to north east along Yell Sound. Views are large scale and expansive with views SVT visible as a minor feature in the direction of the Site. Views to the east are restricted by rising terrain. Operational Viking Wind Farm is visible on the distant skyline to the south.	All eight proposed turbines would be visible from the base or bottom part of the tower to blade tip. Proposed access tracks would be discernible. The Proposed Development would occupy a low-lying fairly level area of moorland and be seen in front of two flare stacks associated with SVT and a mast at Brough. Proposed turbines in the northern part of the array would be seen adjacent to industrial buildings at the oil terminal. Energy Isles (Consented) is unlikely to be readily discernible. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be noticeable in the same direction as the Proposed Development.	The proposed turbines would be seen in part of the main focus of views from this location. They would be a noticeable new feature occupying a moderate part of the view where existing development has a degree of influence. The proposed turbines would not interrupt views towards Ronas Hill or the more undeveloped stretches of the coastline of Yell Sound to the north west. The magnitude of change would be Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a new focal point in elevated views from the A968. However, the proposed turbines would be seen in the more settled and developed part of Yell Sound where SVT has an influence on views. The wider views available to the north and north west would be unaffected including views of Ronas Hill which is a notable landmark. The residual effect would be Moderate and Significant affecting only part of the available views from the A968.
19	Yell, B9081 west of loch Littlester (4.41a-4.41f)	8.70 km East	High Settlement Medium Road users	The viewpoint is situated on the B9081 in the south east of Yell on the western fringes of Burravoe where settlement comprises of scattered dwellings and farmsteads. The focus of views is south west through to south east encompassing the southern part of	Figure 4.41f: Viewpoint 19: Yell. B9081, west of Loch of Littlester (EIAR Volume 3b) shows that the proposed turbines would be visible on a fairly level skyline beyond the	The proposed turbines would be a noticeable new feature on the skyline occupying a small part of available views. The proposed turbines present a clean appearance perceived as a linear array with limited overlapping turbines.	The Proposed Development would be a minor new focal point in part of the main outlook from this location. It would introduce a new form of development into views but would not result in considerable change to the composition of views experienced at this location. It would be

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment

VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Yell Sound, small islands and Lunna peninsula. Aquaculture development is visible in views to the south and in the direction of the Site. Views to the Site include Ness of Copister in the middle distance with flare stacks of SVT visible beyond on the horizon. Operational Viking Wind Farm is visible on the distant skyline to the south.	intermediate screening landform of Ness of Copister. The lower parts of the towers of Turbines 2-4 would be screened by landform, The remaining five proposed turbines would be visible from base of tower to tip height. Beaw Field (Consented) would have a noticeable influence in views to the northwest. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be visible behind the Proposed Development and noticeably smaller.	While the proposed turbines would be a new feature and a minor focal point, they would not fundamentally change the composition of views or out of scale with landform. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight.	seen in the main outlook from this location but would occupy a small part of the view. The residual effect would therefore be Moderate and Not Significant
20	A986/NCR1 South of Firths Voe (4.42a-4.42f)	4.28 km South	Medium Road users	The viewpoint is at an elevated location on the A986. Most of the settlement in this area is located along the coast alongside steep sided voes which restrict view towards the Site. The view is therefore representative of road users. There are views down into Forths Voe towards Mossbank. Yell Sound is visible beyond intervening low ridges behind Mossbank and to the east where views open out slightly. Views in the direction of the Site are long distance with Ronas Hill visible beyond intervening brown moorland hills. Flare stacks of SVT are visible in front of Ronas Hill. There are no operational wind farms visible.	All eight turbines would be visible. The proposed turbines would be seen beyond intervening landform which would screen the lower parts of towers except for Turbine 6 and Turbine 7, which would be visible from ground level. The proposed turbines would be perceived as comparable in height to existing flare stacks present in the view. They would be seen beyond low hills extending across a horizon with a regular horizontal emphasis. The proposed turbines would occupy a small part of available views. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible to the northeast. Energy Isles (Consented) would not be readily discernible. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would potentially be visible from this locality in the direction of the Proposed Development and noticeably smaller.	The proposed turbines would be a new focal point introducing a new type of development into part of the view where industrial development has a limited influence. The proposed turbines would occupy a relatively small extent of available views where the landform is large in scale and the composition of the view is simple. The proposed turbines would appear in proportion to the surrounding landforms with some lower parts of the turbines backdropped by topography. The Proposed Development would not be situated in front of Ronas Hill in views from this location. The magnitude of change would be Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point introducing development into part of the view where existing development and focal points are limited to flare stacks and small-scale settlement. The large scale of the landscape and its simple composition of views in the direction of the Proposed Development limits effects to a degree. The residual effect would be Moderate and Significant.
21	Mossbank (4.43a-4.43f)	2.93 km East	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated at Mossbank jetty at the north eastern end of the peninsula on which the settlement is located. The focus of views is north through to south east encompassing the southern part of Yell Sound, the southern part of Yell, small islands of Bigga, Samphrey, Fish Holm and Linga and Lunna peninsula in the south east. Views in the direction of the Site look along the coast to Mio Ness which truncates longer distance views. A telecommunications mast at Brough is visible. There are no operational wind farms visible.	All eight turbines would be visible. The proposed turbines would be seen beyond intervening landforms which would screen the lower parts of towers except for Turbine 7 and Turbine 6. Turbine 7 and Turbine 6 would appear closest to the viewpoint. The proposed turbines would be a notable new focal point in views to the west but would not affect available views to the east which are the focus at this location. Beaw Field (Consented) would be noticeable to the northeast.	The proposed turbines would occupy a moderate proportion of the view and would not affect the main outlook to the east across Yell Sound, Yell, and other small offshore isles. The proposed turbines would be present beyond a foreground of settlement, smooth pasture and rough grazing. The diverse composition of existing views in the direction of the Proposed Development and the introduction of the proposed turbines would slightly increase the complexity of the view. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	The Proposed Development although noticeable would not be a dominant focal point or substantially influence the wider available views. It would add to the complexity of the view composition in part of the view that is already influenced by settlement and development. The main outlooks north through to south east overlooking the Yell Sound would not be affected. The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant.
22	Ollaberry (4.44a-4.44f)	6.24 km West	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated on the minor road on the approach to Ollaberry from the west. The viewpoint is elevated and the focus is to the east and south east across Bay of Ollaberry and Yell Sound. Views are large scale and expansive to the east and truncated to the north and west by landform. Three small wind turbines are situated a short distance to the northwest of the viewpoint.	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible in views. They would be seen beyond the open water of Yell Sound with limited lower parts of the towers partly screened by low-lying landform. The proposed turbines would be seen behind and next to, SVT and piers. The proposed turbines would occupy a part of	The proposed turbines would be a notable new focal point in views towards SVT and across the Bay of Ollaberry. The Proposed Development would be visibly associated with existing development in the locality and while it would introduce a new type of development it would not be out of scale with existing features or landform.	The Proposed Development would be a prominent new feature on the skyline in part of the view that is already influenced by industrial development. It would be uncharacteristic of views and would be a notable additional focal point in the locality. The main outlooks across the Bay of Ollaberry and Yell Sound would be affected.

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment							
VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				In the direction of the Site SVT is a notable feature and the associated flare stacks are visible on the skyline. Operational Viking Wind Farm is visible on the distant skyline to the south.	the view in which development has a strong influence. Beaw Field (Consented) would be discernible in the distance to the northeast. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would be visible in the direction of the Proposed Development and seen as part of SVT.	The main outlook to the east and south east, across the Bay of Ollaberry and Yell Sound would be affected. The magnitude of change would be Moderate.	The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant .
23	Vidlin (4.45a-4.x45f)	12.75 km South east	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated on a minor road above the eastern part of Vidlin. The main outlook from the viewpoint is west to the head of Vidlin Voe where the village of Vidlin is visible and north across Vidlin Voe. Views in the direction of the Site are expansive and encompass Vidlin Voe and a series of horizontal intervening ridges and headland that extend into Yell Sound which can be seen beyond Vidlin Voe. Operational Viking Wind Farm is very noticeable to the west.	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible, but largely screened by intervening topography, with only the blade tips visible for three of the turbines, and only the hub height to blade tip visible for the other turbines. They would be seen beyond the waters of Vidlin Voe behind low hills extending across a horizon with a regular horizontal emphasis. The proposed turbines would occupy a small part of available views. Both Beaw Field (Consented) and Energy Isles (Consented) would be partly visible in the distance with limited influence on views. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would not be discernible.	The Proposed Development would contrast with the largely undeveloped rural and coastal character of views. However, the proposed turbines would be perceived as relatively distant features separated from the viewpoint by an intervening Vidlin Voe and landform of Lunna Ness peninsula and other intervening peninsulas. The proposed turbines would be substantially screened by landform. They would be a minor focal point in views and would have a limited influence on the composition of large-scale views available at this location. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight.	The Proposed Development would be a discernible new focal point but would not be a competing influence in views of the coastline at Vidlin Voe and the underlying view composition would be broadly consistent with baseline. The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant .
24	Whalsay (4.46a-4.46f)	19.67 km South east	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated at the north east end of Whalsay at the settlement of Skaw and to the west of Whalsay golf course and the airfield. Views are directed north and encompass the southern part of Yell Sound including Lunna Ness peninsula. Views are expansive with a horizontal emphasis strongly influenced by the sea. Views in the direction of the Site look across open sea to a low, horizontal horizon with Ronas Hill visible in the distance. Operational Viking Wind Farm is discernible to the southwest. Operational Garth Wind Farm is theoretically visible as shown on the wireline in Figure 4.46b: Viewpoint 24: Whalsay (EIAR Volume 3b) but is not readily discernible in the view.	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible to hub height. They would be seen beyond the open water of Yell Sound on low hills extending across a horizon with a regular horizontal emphasis. The proposed turbines would occupy a small part of available views and would be backdropped by Ronas Hill in the distance. Both Beaw Field (Consented) and Energy Isles (Consented) would be visible in the distance with limited influence on views. Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would not be readily discernible.	The Proposed Development would contrast with the undeveloped rural and coastal character of views. However, the proposed turbines would be perceived as relatively distant features separated from the viewpoint by an intervening expanse of sea. The proposed turbines would appear in front of Ronas Hill but would not interrupt the profile of the hill. The proposed turbines would be a minor focal point in views and would have a limited influence on the composition of views available at this location. The magnitude of change would be Slight.	The Proposed Development would be a noticeable new focal point but would not be a competing influence in views of the coastline at Lunna Ness peninsula. The proposed turbines would be seen in front of Ronas Hill which is a notable landmark but would not interrupt the profile of the hill. The residual effect would be Moderate and Not Significant .
25	Toft (4.47a-4.47f)	1.05 km East	High Settlement	The viewpoint is situated on the minor road that leads north from the A968 at Toft and gives access to residential properties. The view is similar to Viewpoint 8 Toft Ferry Terminal but outward views to the east and southeast are slightly more restricted by landform. The focus of views is a across Tofts Voe and Yell Sound. Views in the direction of the Site are restricted by landform to a degree. the ground plane of the southern part of the Site is visible, and a flare stack of SVT can be seen to the west.	Seven of the proposed turbines would be seen in the middle distance, with Turbine 4 visible to hub height only. The proposed turbines would appear large and set in an expansive moorland landscape. Access roads and crane hardstanding would be visible although not uncharacteristic of this area of grazing land. The proposed turbines would be seen in large scale views where the existing view composition has an undeveloped rural character.	The Proposed Development would be a new focal point in views to the northwest from this location. The proposed turbines would occupy a moderate proportion of available views resulting in a considerable, but not fundamental, change to the composition of views. The main outlook across Tofts Voe to Yell Sound would not be affected. The magnitude of change would be Substantial .	The Proposed Development would be a prominent addition to views and would considerably alter the composition of views in the direction of the Proposed Development. A flare stack from SVT already contributes to the human influence on the composition of views. However, the degree of change arising from the Proposed Development is considerable. The residual effect would be Major and Significant .

Table 4.4.1: Viewpoint Assessment							
VP No.	Viewpoint Name (Figure ref.)	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Baseline View	Predicted View and Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				There are no operational wind farms visible.	Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) would not be readily discernible.		
26	Yell Ferry Route (4.48a-4.48f)	3.37 km East	High Ferry passengers	The viewpoint is situated in Yell Sound and is typical of views that may be obtained from the route of the Toft-Ulsta ferry. There are views northwest and southeast along Yell Sound from the ferry which is a short crossing of about 15-20 minutes. There are views in the direction of the Site in which the low-lying landform of the coastline contrast with more distant views of Ronas Hill. Flare stacks of SVT are visible in the direction of the Site as is a mast at Brough. The wireline on Figure 4.48d: Viewpoint 26: Yell Ferry Route (EIAR Volume 3b) indicates that blade tips of two turbines of operational Viking Wind Farm are theoretically visible. These are not readily discernible in the view.	All eight of the proposed turbines would be visible in views. They would be seen beyond the open water of Yell Sound with the lower parts of the towers partly screened by low-lying landform. The Proposed Development would introduce a different type of development into views and would be a new focal point. Beaw Field (Consented) would be visible with limited influence on views. A blade of one Sullom Voe Terminal (In Planning) turbine would be discernible.	The Proposed Development would be a notable new focal point in views from the Toft-Ulsta ferry. However, it would not be a dominant or overwhelming feature. Turbines in the array are at similar heights above ground level, and this regular profile fits the horizontal emphasis of the low coastline. However, the degree of change would be very noticeable. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate.	The Proposed Development would be a notable focal point resulting in considerable change to the composition of views. SVT flare stack and masts already contribute to the human influence on the composition of views. However, the degree of change arising from the Proposed Development is considerable. The residual effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant.