



Hill of Fare Wind Farm

Technical Appendix 6.3

Preliminary Assessment of LCTs & Designations

Author	Pegasus Group
Date	6 September 2023
Ref	

This document (the “Report”) has been prepared by Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (“RES”). RES shall not be deemed to make any representation regarding the accuracy, completeness, methodology, reliability or current status of any material contained in this Report, nor does RES assume any liability with respect to any matter or information referred to or contained in the Report, except to the extent specified in (and subject to the terms and conditions of) any contract to which RES is party that relates to the Report (a “Contract”). Any person relying on the Report (a “Recipient”) does so at their own risk, and neither the Recipient nor any person to whom the Recipient provides the Report or any matter or information derived from it shall have any right or claim against RES or any of its affiliated companies in respect thereof, but without prejudice to the terms of any Contract to which the Recipient is party.

Contents

1	Preliminary Assessment of LCTs and Designations.....	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Preliminary Assessment of LCTs.....	1

1 Preliminary Assessment of LCTs and Designations

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix provides a preliminary assessment of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the detailed 20 km LVIA Study Area.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is predominantly located within LCT 22 Moorland Plateau (i) Grampian Outliers and a small portion of the associated infrastructure extends into the western fringe of LCT 1 (ii) Agricultural Heartland - Central Wooded Estates, as defined in the Aberdeenshire Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energyⁱ (ASLC).
- 1.1.3 Other LCTs within 35 km of the Proposed Development are illustrated in **Figure 6.13**, and those located within the 20 km detailed study area are illustrated at **Figure 6.14** and overlaid with the blade tip ZTV at **Figure 6.15**.

1.2 Preliminary Assessment of LCTs

- 1.2.1 An initial filtering exercise has been undertaken to determine which LCTs would have the potential for significant effects to arise and would therefore require detailed consideration in the LVIA. The intention has been to ensure that the level of attention given to each character type is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The discussion below summarises the process followed in deciding which character types have the potential to experience significant effects and hence to scope out various character types from further consideration.
- 1.2.2 With reference to **Figure 6.13**, illustrating the character types within 35 km there are certain character types from which there would be no or very limited visibility of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, with increased distance from the Proposed Development the potential for indirect and significant effects to occur is reduced. On that basis, all LCTs which are located between 20 km and 35 km have been scoped out of any further assessment, as it is considered that there would be no potential for significant effects to arise at this distance.

1.2.3 Therefore, **Table 6.3.1** below lists all LCTs within the 20 km detailed LVIA Study Area and considers whether the potential effects upon the landscape character type should be assessed in more detail within the LVIA.

Table 6.3.1: Preliminary Assessment of LCTs

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Aberdeenshire Landscape Character Types			
LCT 1 (ix) Central Wooded Estates	Proposed Development is partly located in this area	Potential for direct and indirect significant effects as part of the associated infrastructure is located within this LCT.	Yes
LCT 1 (viii) Formartine Lowlands	18.7 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility from the southern part of the LCT but due to the distance from the Proposed Development any effects would be very limited and would not be significant.	No
LCT 1 (x) Howe of Alford	10.7 km to the north-west	The majority of the LCT would not experience any views, with a limited section of the northern part of the LCT experiencing theoretical visibility at distances in excess of 14 km. Any effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be significant.	No
LCT 1 (xii) Howe of Cromar	14.7 km to the west	The majority of the LCT would not experience any views, with a limited section of the western part of the LCT experiencing very limited, patchy theoretical visibility at distances in excess of 17 km. Any effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be significant.	No
LCT 1 (xiii) Kincardine Plateau	11.6 km to the south-east	Theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines from the majority of the LCT. There is potential effects on the character of available views but at such distances effects would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 1 (xiv) Garvock and Glenbervie	17.8 km to the south-east	No theoretical visibility experienced within 20 km of the Proposed Development	No
LCT 11 (i) The Cromar Uplands	1.9 km to the west	Theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines from close range. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes

LCT 22 (i) Grampian Outliers	The majority of the Proposed Development is located within this area.	Potential for direct and indirect significant effects on the character of the LCT.	Yes
LCT 22 (i) Grampian Outliers	16.5 km to the north-west	Patchy theoretical visibility from the part of the LCT overlapping with the detailed 20 km LVIA study area. Due the distance from the Proposed Development any indirect effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be significant.	No
LCT 22 (i) Grampian Outliers	15.7 km to the north-west	Intermittent theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines experienced at distances in excess of 16 km. Any indirect effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 22 (i) Grampian Outliers	6.4 km to the south	Theoretical visibility from the majority of the LCT in relative proximity. Potential for significant indirect effects on the character of available views.	Yes
LCT 22 (i) Grampian Outliers	10.7 km to the west	Theoretical visibility of up to all turbines from the eastern half of the LCT. Potential for significant indirect effects on the character of available views.	Yes
LCT 22 (i) Grampian Outliers	6.3 km to the north-west	Theoretical visibility of up to all turbines from the southern part of the LCT. Potential for significant indirect effects on the character of available views.	Yes
LCT 22 (ii) The Mounth	8 km to the south	Patchy theoretical visibility from the northern half of the LCT closest to the Proposed Development. Potential for significant indirect effects on the character of available views.	Yes

LCT 22 (iii) The North-eastern Hill Ranges	15 km to the south-west	Patchy intermittent theoretical visibility. Any indirect effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 25 (ii) Deeside	1.4 km to the south	Extensive theoretical visibility up to approximately 7.5 km, becoming more intermittent beyond. Potential for significant indirect effects on the character of available views.	Yes
LCT 25 (iii) Donside	17.9 km to the north-west	Very limited intermittent theoretical visibility at distances in excess of 18.5 km. Given the very limited visibility and at such distances any indirect effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 25 (iv) Upper Deeside Estates	12.5 km to the south-west	Extensive theoretical visibility from the majority of the LCT. Although there is potential for effects due to the distance from the Proposed Development they would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 25 (v) Upper Deeside Estates	16.3 km to the north-west	Patchy intermittent theoretical visibility. Any indirect effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No

Landscape Character Types within the Cairngorms National Park

LCT 129 Broad Glen with Estates	17.2 km to the south-west	Extensive theoretical visibility from the majority of the LCT overlapping the detailed 20 km LVIA study area. Although there is potential for effects due to the distance from the Proposed Development they would not be considered significant.	No
---------------------------------	---------------------------	---	----

LCT 123 Smooth Rounded Hills - Cairgorm	16.9 km to the south-west	Very limited intermittent theoretical visibility at distances in excess of 17.3 km. Given the very limited visibility and at such distances any indirect effects on the character of available views would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
---	---------------------------	---	----

Table 6.3.2: Preliminary Assessment of Designated Sites

Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
National Parks			
Cairngorms National Park	16.9 km to the south-west	Very patchy and intermittent theoretical visibility around the eastern fringes of the Park near Ballater. Actual visibility is likely to be much less than predicted due to intervening vegetation apart from elevated, open hilltops. Potential for limited effects but would not be considered significant.	No
Deeside and Lochnagar National Scenic Area	32.8 km to the west	Very intermittent theoretical visibility predicted, given the distance from the Proposed Development any effects would be minimal and would not be considered significant.	No
Special Landscape Areas			
Upper Don Valley SLA	17.2 km to the north-east	Very patchy theoretical visibility predicted, given the distance from the Proposed Development any effects would be minimal and would not be considered significant.	No
Hill of Cromar SLA	12.6 km to the west	Very patchy theoretical visibility predicted, with the majority of the SLA not experiencing theoretical visibility. Any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No

Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Dee Valley SLA	2.15 km to the south	Extensive theoretical visibility from the majority of the SLA is close proximity to the Proposed Development. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
Clachnaben and Forest Birse SLA	11 km to the south-west	Patchy theoretical visibility from upland parts of the SLA. At over 11 km effects would be limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Braes of Mearns SLA	19.5 km to the south	Practically no theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No

ⁱ Aberdeenshire Council (2014). Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire. Final Report. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/the-strategic-landscape-capacity-for-windfarms/>