



Hill of Fare Wind Farm

Technical Appendix 6.4

Preliminary Assessment of Visual Receptors

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1 Preliminary Assessment of Visual Receptors

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 An initial filtering exercise has been undertaken to identify which visual receptors identified in the baseline (**Section 6.5 of Chapter 6**) have the potential to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.

1.1.2 The intention has been to ensure that the level of assessment given to each visual receptor is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The tables below list the principal visual receptors identified in the baseline study and summarises the initial assessment carried out to determine which visual receptors have the potential to experience significant effects and require detailed assessment.

1.1.3 The principal visual receptors are illustrated on **Figure 6.18** and overlaid with the blade tip ZTV at **Figure 6.19** within the detailed 20 km LVIA study area.

Table 6.4.1: Preliminary Assessment of Settlements

Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Settlements within 5 km			
Torphins	Approximately 3.4 km to the west	Theoretical visibility of up to 12 blade tips and 8 hubs experienced in close proximity. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
Midmar	Approximately 3.6 km to the north	Theoretical visibility of up to 16 blade tips and 12 hubs experienced in close proximity. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
Echt	located approximately 4 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility of up to 16 blade tips and 12 hubs experienced in close proximity. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
Inchmarlo	Approximately 4.7 km to the south	Theoretical visibility of up to 16 blade tips and 12 hubs experienced from the northern part of the settlement in close proximity. Potential for significant effects.	Yes

Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Banchory	Approximately 6 km to the south	Theoretical visibility of up to 16 blade tips and hubs experienced in close proximity. Potential for significant effects.	Yes

Settlements within 5 to 10 km

Sauchen & Cluny	Approximately 6.7 km to the north	Theoretical visibility of up to 16 blade tips and hubs experienced in oblique views from the settlement. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
Millbank	Approximately 7.1 km to the north	Settlement located at a lower elevation with screening to the south provided by plantation. Potential for effects but not considered to be significant.	No
Dunecht	Approximately 7.4 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility from the eastern part of the settlement. Views partly screened by intervening trees. Potential for effects but not considered to be significant.	No
Lumphanan	Approximately 7.9 km to the north-west	Theoretical visibility of a limited number of blade tips. Limited potential for effects which would not be considered to be significant	No
Garlogie	Approximately 7.9 km to the east	Theoretical visibility of a limited number of turbines with intervening vegetation providing further screening of views. Potential for limited effects but not considered to be significant.	No
Crathes	Approximately 8.1 km to the south-east	Theoretical visibility predicted from the settlement with intervening vegetation providing further screening of views. Potential for effects but not considered to be significant.	No
Lyne of Skene	Approximately 9.2 km to the north-east;	Theoretical visibility of up to all turbines. The intervening distance together with foreground screening means that effects would not be considered significant.	No

Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Park	Approximately 9.4 km to the south-east	Views limited to the upper parts of blade tips only. No potential for significant effects.	No
Drumoak -	Approximately 9.5 km to the south-east	Very limited theoretical visibility with the majority of the settlement experiencing no theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
Kirkton of Durris	Approximately 9.6 km to the south-east	Substantial intervening vegetation around the settlement. No potential for significant effects.	No

Settlements within 10 to 15 km

Monymusk	Approximately 11 km to the north	Views south restricted to blade tips of a limited number of turbines. No potential for significant effects.	No
Kirkton of Skene	Approximately 11 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility of all turbines. Actual visibility reduced by intervening vegetation along the western edge of the settlement. Limited potential for effects that would not be considered significant.	No
Westhill	Approximately 11.1 km to the east	Views west from the settlement to Hill of Fare that provides the back drop to the view. Potential for effects but due to the distance would not be considered significant.	No
Woodlands of Durris	Approximately 11.6 km to the south-east	Views limited to blade tips only. No potential for significant effects.	No
Kemnay	Approximately 12.1 km to the north	Theoretical visibility of up to all turbines. However actual visibility restricted by intervening vegetation south the south of the settlement. At such distance any effects would be limited and would not be considered significant.	No

Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Aboyne	Approximately 13.6 km to the west	Theoretical visibility of up to all turbines. However actual visibility restricted by intervening vegetation to the east of the settlement. At such distance any effects would be limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Kintore	Approximately 13.8 km to the north-east	Intermittent theoretical visibility of up to all turbines. Actual visibility restricted by vegetation and structures along the A96 road corridor. Any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Blackburn	Approximately 14.5 km to the north	Theoretical visibility limited to the southern part of the settlement. of up to all turbines. Actual visibility restricted by vegetation and structures along the A96 road corridor. Any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No

Settlements within 15 to 20 km

Inverurie & Port Elphinstone	Approximately 15.7 km to the north-east	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
Keig	Approximately 16.5 km to the north-west	Very limited theoretical visibility limited to be blade tips only, with actual visibility reduced by intervening vegetation to the south-east. No potential for significant effects.	No
Blairs	Approximately 17.3 km to the east	Theoretical visibility predicted. Actual visibility reduced by intervening vegetation to the west of the settlement. Potential for limited effects which would not be considered significant.	No
Hatton of Fintray	Approximately 18.5 km to the north-east	Potential for very limited effects which would not be considered significant.	No

Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Kinmuck	Approximately 19.8 km to the north-east	Potential for limited effects which would not be considered significant.	No

Table 6.4.2: Preliminary Assessment of Core Paths

Core Path	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Core Paths within 5 km			
Core Path 616.01 - Torphins Wood Circular	Approximately 4.2 km to the west	Majority of the path is within woodland. Potential for significant effects primarily from the eastern part of the path that follows a minor road.	Yes
Core Path 616.02 - Torphins: Cemetery Walk	Approximately 4.6 km to the west	Theoretical visibility of up to 12 turbines. Potential for significant effects due to the proximity and open views from sections of the path.	Yes
Core Path 413.01 - Midmar Primary to Comers	Approximately 3.7 km to the north	No theoretical visibility.	No
Core Path 405.02 - Myriewell Circular	Approximately 4.1 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines. Potential for significant effects due to the proximity and the open views available.	Yes
Core Path 405.01 - Echt to North Kirkton Woods	Approximately 4.1 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines. Potential for significant effects due to the proximity and the open views available.	Yes
Core Path 604.06 - Upper Lochton to Corsee Road	Approximately 4.8 km to the south	Theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines. Potential for significant effects from the eastern section of the path due to the proximity and the open views available.	Yes

Core Path	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Core Path 604.02 - Inchmarlo to Burnett Park	Approximately 4.9 km to the south	Limited theoretical visibility. Actual visibility reduced due to the intervening vegetation along path. No potential for significant effects.	No
Core Path 604.10 - Former Railway Line to Inchmarlo	Approximately 4.8 km to the south	Path passes through woodland restricting views. No potential for significant effects.	No
Core Path 604.03 - Glassel Road to Fayreview	Approximately 4.9 km to the south	Path passes through woodland restricting views. No potential for significant effects.	No
Core Path 604.04 Lower Bellwood to Upper Chrichton	Approximately 5 km to the south	Path passes through woodland restricting views. No potential for significant effects.	No

Core Paths within 5 to 10 km

Core Path 417.01 - Sauchan Farm to A944	Approximately 6.2 km to the north	Open views south from the road across open fields to Hill of Fare that provides the backdrop to views. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
Core Path 411.03 - Gask Wood Circular	Approximately 9.1 km	Potential for effects from the southern section of the path but due to the distance effects would not be considered significant	No
Core Path 7LD.02.05 - The Deeside Way	Approximately 6.3 km to the south	Limited to no theoretical visibility from sections of the path to the west. Potential significant effects along more open sections of the path to the east of Banchory.	Yes
Core Path 604.01 Banchory River Bank Golf Course	Approximately 5.8 km to the south	Potential for significant effects due to the proximity of the nature of open views north.	Yes
Core paths 604.07 Hill of Banchory, 604.05 Burn o'Bennie	Approximately 5.4 km to the south	Paths pass through built up area. Limited potential for effects which would not be considered significant.	No
Core Path 614.02 - Scolty Hill Path	Approximately 7.1 km to the south	Views across valley towards Hill of Fare, with potential for effects to be considered significant.	Yes

Core Path	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Core Path 614.01 - Lower Scolty Path	Approximately 7.1 km to the south	Theoretical visibility from the northern half of the path. Actual visibility reduced by adjacent plantation woodland. Potential for limited effects but would not be considered significant.	No
Core Path 603.01 - Shooting greens to Corsedardar via Tom's Cairn	Approximately 9.7 km to the south-west	Theoretical visibility from the north-eastern end of the path but at such distance effects would not be considered significant.	No
Core paths 610.01 and 610.02 Lumphanan Castle	Approximately 8.1 km to the west	No theoretical visibility.	No

Table 6.4.3: Preliminary Assessment of Cycle Routes

Cycle Route	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Aberdeenshire Cycle Route - Midmar - Dunecht	Approximately 2.2 km to the north	Theoretical visibility from the majority of the route in close proximity. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
Aberdeenshire Cycle Route - Banchory - Blackhall Forest	Approximately 5.7 km to the south	Theoretical visibility from the north half of the route. Actual visibility reduced by forestry. Potential for limited effects that would not be considered significant.	No
Aberdeenshire Cycle Route - Westhill - The Drum Castle Round	Approximately 6.2 km to the east	Theoretical visibility from the majority of the route in relative proximity. Potential for significant effects.	Yes
NCN 195	Approximately 6.5 km to the south	Theoretical visibility to the west and east of Banchory. Potential for effects which could be considered significant.	Yes
Aberdeenshire Cycle Route - Alford to Monymusk via My Lord's Throat	Approximately 9 km to the north-west	Very limited theoretical visibility with many section experienced no visibility. Potential for limited effects but would not be considered significant.	No

Table 6.3.4: Preliminary Assessment of Roads

Road	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
A Roads			
A944	Approximately 5.9 km to the north	Potential for significant effect due to the relative proximity of the route to the Proposed Development.	Yes
A980	Approximately 2.1 km to the south	Potential for significant effect due to the relative proximity of the route to the Proposed Development.	Yes
A93	Approximately 5.2 km to the south	Potential for significant effect due to the relative proximity of the route to the Proposed Development.	Yes
A957	Approximately 8.1 km to the south-east	Potential for effects but due to the distance effects would not be considered significant.	No
B Roads			
B993	Approximately 2.5 km to the west	Intermittent visibility but due to close proximity potential for significant effects.	Yes
B9119	Approximately 2.4 km to the north	Intermittent visibility but due to close proximity potential for significant effects.	Yes
B9125	Approximately 6.5 km to the east	Potential for significant effect due to the relative proximity of the route to the Proposed Development.	Yes
B977	Approximately 4.1 km to the south-east	Intermittent visibility but due to close proximity potential for significant effects.	Yes
B974	Approximately 6.2 km to the south	Potential for effects but due to the distance effects would not be considered significant.	No