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Chapter 6

Landscape and Visual

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Baseline studies	*'Work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which future changes can be measure or predicted and assessed'*
Characteristics	*'Elements or combinations of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character.'**
Compensation	*'Measures devised to offset or compensate for residual adverse effects which cannot be prevented/avoided or further reduced.'**
Cumulative Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA)	To identify, predict and evaluate potential key effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development to a theoretical baseline which includes the existing baseline situation of operational wind farms, those under construction and additionally wind farms currently being considered within the planning system that may or may not be present in the landscape in the future.
Direct effect	*'An effect that is directly attributable to the proposed development.'**
'Do nothing' situation	*'Continued change or evolution in the landscape in the absence of the proposed development.'**
Enhancement	*'Proposals that seek to improve the landscape resource and the visual amenity of the proposed development site and its wider setting, over and above it's baseline condition.'**
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	*Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of drawing together by the developer, in a systematic way, a description of the development and information relating to an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development*
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 Regulation 5
Geographical Information System (GIS)	*'A system that captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data linked to location. It links spatial information to a digital database.'**
Indirect effects	*'Indirect effects that result indirectly from the proposed project as a consequence of the direct effects., often occurring away from the site, or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects.'**
Iterative design process	*'The process by which project design is amended and improved by successive stages of refinement which respond to growing understanding of environmental issues'**
Key characteristics	*'Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place'**
Landcover	*' The surface cover of the land, usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack of it. Related to but not the same as land use.'**
Land Use	*'What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as urban and industrial use and the different types of agriculture and forestry.'**
Landform	*'The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.'**

Term	Definition
Landscape	*'An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.'**
Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA	*'A tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.'**
Landscape character	*'A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.'**
Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)	*'A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.'**
Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)	*'The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.'**
Landscape Character Types	*'These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern, and perceptual and aesthetic attributes.'**
Landscape effects	*'Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.'**
Landscape quality (condition)	*'A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.'**
Landscape receptors	*'Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal'**
Landscape value	*'The relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.'**
Magnitude (of effect)	*'A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.'**
Panorama	*'An image covering a horizontal field of view wider than a single 50mm frame. Wirelines and photomontages may also be produced as panoramas.'***
Perception	*'Combines the sensory (that we receive through our senses) with the cognitive (our knowledge and understanding gained from many sources an experiences).'**
Photomontage	*'A visualisation which superimposes an image of a proposed development upon a photograph or series of photographs'**
Protected and designated landscapes	*'Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.'**
Receptors	*'See Landscape receptors and Visual receptors.'**

Term	Definition
Scoping	*'The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an EIA. It is a method of ensuring that an EIA focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered to be less significant.'**
Sensitivity	*'A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.'**
Significance	*'A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to environmental topic'**
Susceptibility	*'The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.'**
The Applicant	Fred Olsen Renewables Ltd
The Proposed Development	The proposed Scawd Law Wind Farm development
The Proposed Development Area	The development area within the red site line boundary (application area) as shown in Volume 3a Figure 1.2: Site Layout
Developer	In the event of the Proposed Development being granted Section 36 Consent, this is the Company developing the Project
Tranquillity	'*A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of landscape*.'*
Visual amenity	'*The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.'**
Visual effects	'*Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.'**
Visual receptors	*'Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.'**
Visualisation	'*A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a development.'**
Wirelines	*These are also known as wireframes and computer generated line drawings. These are line diagrams that are based on DTM data and illustrate the three-dimensional shape of the landscape in combination with additional elements such as the components of a proposed wind farm.'***
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	*'A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible.'**

*Taken from Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition. 2013
** Taken from Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Guidance. 2017

List of Abbreviations

List and describe your abbreviations here.

Abbreviation	Description
CMLI	Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute

Abbreviation	Description
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment
km	Kilometre
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LVIA	Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
m	Metre
NP	Natural Power
NSA	National Scenic Area
PLI	Public Local Inquiry
SBC	Scottish Borders Council
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SUW	Southern Upland Way
WLA	Wild Land Area
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

6.1 STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

6.1.1 The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) from Natural Power experienced in undertaking LVIAs of wind farms throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. This has included siting, feasibility and capacity studies, wind farm layout design, assessment, and preparation of material for Public Local Inquiries (PLI).

6.1.2 LVIA involves a combination of quantitative and subjective assessment and in accordance with the principles set out in the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment, Third Edition* (GLVIA3),[1] professional judgement is applied to the assessment of effects and a reasoned justification presented in respect of the findings.

6.1.3 Photography has been undertaken by a professional photographer experienced in undertaking specialist day and night-time viewpoint photography to NatureScot and Landscape Institute standards for LVIAs and to support evidence at PLI.

6.1.4 Visualisations and supporting LVIA figures have been produced by Natural Power experienced in the provision of GIS mapping, visualisation, and analytical services to all stages of the renewable energy project life cycle.

6.2 INTRODUCTION

6.2.1 This Chapter of the EIAR provides a summary of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the proposed Scawd Law Wind Farm described in Chapter 4 of this EIAR (herein referred to as the Proposed Development). The aim of the LVIA is to identify, predict and evaluate potential effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual amenity. The methodology for this assessment is detailed in Appendix 6.1.

6.2.2 The landscape and visual aspects of the proposed site have been a key consideration throughout the design process and fed into the design evolution of the Proposed Development and are described in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Evolution.

6.2.3 This Chapter of the EIAR should be read in conjunction with the following chapters (Volume 2):

- Chapter 2: Policy Context;
- Chapter 3: Site Selection;
- Chapter 4: Project Description;
- Chapter 7: Ecology;
- Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology;
- Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 13: Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation; and
- Chapter 14: Aviation and Other Matters.

6.2.4 This Chapter is also supported by the following Technical Appendices (Volume 4), Figures and Visualisations (Volume 3b).

- Appendix 6.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Methodology;
- Appendix 6.2: Operational / Under Construction & Cumulative Wind Farms;
- Appendix 6.3: Landscape Character Review;
- Appendix 6.4: Protected & Designated Landscapes Review;
- Appendix 6.5: Viewpoint Assessment;

[1] Landscape Institute, Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. (2013) *Guidelines for Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition*. Routledge. London.

- Appendix 6.6: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment; and
- Volume 3b: LVIA Figures & Visualisations and Cultural Heritage Figures.

6.3 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

6.3.1 The Proposed Development is described in Chapter 4: Project Description and the elements likely to lead to landscape and visual effects summarised below:

- 8 Turbines up to 180 m tip height (including aviation lights installed on the hubs);
- Turbine infrastructure including turbine foundations; external transformer housing; crane pads and hardstand areas;
- Substation, control building and compound;
- Battery/energy storage infrastructure;
- Construction of approximately 6.8 km of new access tracks;
- Alterations to the public road network;
- Underground electricity cables;
- Anemometry mast;
- Signage;
- One temporary borrow pit;
- Temporary concrete batching plant;
- Temporary construction and storage compounds, laydown areas and ancillary infrastructure;
- One minor water crossing between Turbines 3 and 6; and
- Drainage and drainage attenuation measures (as required).

6.4 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

Study Area

LVIA Study Area

6.4.1 NatureScot guidance[2] advises an initial study area of 45 km for wind turbines exceeding 150 m in tip height. This has been offset from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development (see Figure 6.1).

Cumulative Study Area

6.4.2 For the cumulative assessment, an initial study area of 60 km is identified in accordance with the relevant guidance (SNH, 2012) (see Figure 6.11). Following a review, this has been refined to 45 km from the outermost turbines and data collected for sites that are consented and submitted applications which would likely be experienced in conjunction with the Proposed Development (see Figure 6.12).

6.4.3 It should be noted that the study areas applied in this LVIA have been determined as areas where all potential significant landscape and visual effects are likely to occur and is not the limit of potential visibility of the Proposed Development. Operational wind farms have been included as baseline.

[2] Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Guidance. [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-09/Guidance%20-%20Visual%20representation%20of%20wind%20farms%20-%20Feb%202017.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

6.5 METHODOLOGY

6.5.1 A detailed description of the LVIA process undertaken and methodology applied is included in Appendix 6.1 and summarised below.

Identification of Landscape and Visual Receptors

6.5.2 Once the study area has been defined, the next step is to establish how the Proposed Development may give rise to landscape and visual effects. This is established through an understanding of the project components proposed, their layout and evolution through construction, operational and decommissioning phases. This forms the basis of the assessment and aids the identification of the landscape and visual baseline likely to be affected, referred to as landscape and visual receptors.

6.5.3 These were identified through analysis of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping (described in Appendix 6.1), desk-study and field work. ZTVs have been generated to aid the understanding of the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. ZTVs have been used through the different stages of the Proposed Development from the initial feasibility study, through the evolution of the layout design, and have informed the extent of the study area and identification of landscape and visual receptors that are likely to be affected. As a precautionary approach, potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity are considered in this LVIA to be adverse

Landscape Effects

6.5.4 Assessing the significance of landscape effects on the landscape resource requires the identification of the landscape receptors, the consideration of the nature of the landscape receptors (sensitivity) and the nature of the change (magnitude) on those receptors due to the Proposed Development.

Landscape Baseline

6.5.5 Landscape is defined by the relationship between people and place and how different components of the natural environment such as geology, soils, climate, flora, and fauna; interact and are perceived alongside cultural and social components of historical and cultural land use, settlement, enclosure, and other human interventions.

6.5.6 Designated landscapes at national and local level are also included as broad scale landscape receptors and include the special qualities which contributed to their reasons for designation.

6.5.7 The landscape baseline has been identified through review of publicly available sources from NatureScot, SBC, and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Sources are detailed under the Section 6.8 Landscape Baseline.

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

6.5.8 GLVIA3 states that sensitivity of the landscape should be defined by analysing the susceptibility of the landscape receptor to the proposed change (the Proposed Development) and the value of the landscape receptor. These are described in detail in Appendix 6.1.

6.5.9 Both landscape value and susceptibility are identified as high, medium, and low. So, where susceptibility to landscape change may be high but value is considered to be low, overall landscape sensitivity to wind farm development would generally be expected to be medium. However, in some cases, landscapes generally attributed the highest value such as international or national landscape designations do not necessarily have a high susceptibility to all types of change. Professional judgement is used to evaluate this complex relationship between value and susceptibility to determine the overall sensitivity of the landscape receptor to the proposed development. Full justification for the assessment of the sensitivity of a particular receptor is included in the LVIA. Table 6.1 below is used as a guide only.

Table 6.1: Levels of sensitivity of landscape receptors defined by value and susceptibility

Susceptibility to change ↑ / Value of Receptor ←	High	Medium	Low
High	**High**		
Medium		**Medium**	
Low			**Low**

Landscape Magnitude of Change

6.5.10 Judgements of magnitude of change are assessed in terms of the size and scale, geographical extent, duration, and reversibility of the change likely to result from the Proposed Development.

6.5.11 The relationship between all three of the above factors is assessed to determine the overall nature of the change resulting from the introduction of the proposed development. This results in four levels of magnitude. Substantial, Moderate, Slight and Negligible which is outlined in Table 6.2.

6.5.12 In general, a major level of change in terms of size and scale, across a large geographical extent with long term reversible or permanent, irreversible effects would result in an overall substantial magnitude of change. However, this is a complex relationship between the different factors of magnitude, and various combinations are possible. Each effect is judged on its own merit and the following table is used as a guide only.

Table A6.2: Levels of magnitude of potential effect defined by size and scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility

Level of Magnitude	Definition of Magnitude
Substantial	Total loss or major alteration to key elements, features, or perceptual characteristics of the baseline landscape over a large area including the possible introduction of major new and uncharacteristic elements. The post development character and composition of the baseline landscape resource will be fundamentally changed for some distance from the site. Changes would also be deemed permanent and irreversible.
Moderate	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements, features, or perceptual characteristics of the baseline landscape over a moderate area, including the possible introduction of moderate new and uncharacteristic elements. The post development character and composition of the baseline landscape resource will be partially, but noticeably changed at a medium distance from the site, including the immediate setting and the landscape character area in which it lies. Changes would be long term, between 10 and 25 years but theoretically reversible.
Slight	Minor loss of or alteration to one or more key elements, features, or perceptual characteristics of the baseline landscape over a small area, including the possible introduction of minor new and uncharacteristic elements. The post development character and composition of the baseline landscape resource will be noticeably changed but the underlying character of the baseline landscape will be similar to the pre-development character. The change would occur only within the site itself or within the immediate vicinity of the development proposal. Changes would be wholly or partially reversible and would be medium term, lasting for up to ten years.
Negligible	Very limited or imperceptible loss or alteration to one or more key elements, features, or perceptual characteristics of the baseline landscape over a negligible area, including negligible effects from the introduction of minor new and uncharacteristic elements. Change to the landscape character will be barely discernible with very limited influence on the landscape character within the site or immediate vicinity of the development proposal. Changes would be reversible, deemed temporary and would last between 0 and 5 years.

6.5.13 The determination of the magnitude of effect on the designated landscape resource additionally considers the distance from the site at its closest point, potential changes to principal views from within and towards the designated landscape and potential effects on the integrity of the designated landscape, including the extent to which it could affect the policy reasons for designation.

Visual Effects

6.5.14 Assessing the significance of visual effects of the Proposed Development requires several steps including identifying the sensitivity of the visual receptor, identifying the magnitude or scale of the change to the receptors view, prior to forming a judgement with respect to the significance of the effect in the context of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Visual Baseline

6.5.15 Visual amenity relates to people's views from static locations or when moving through the landscape and are usually grouped by what they are doing such as residents, road users, recreational users, visitors, and workers etc. They include people living and working in the area, people travelling through the area on foot, road, rail or other forms of transport, people visiting promoted tourist attractions and landscapes, and people pursuing other recreational activities.

6.5.16 The following have been considered in the visual baseline:

- Residential properties within 3 km of the Proposed Development (agreed through consultation with Scottish Borders Council (SBC);
- Settlements;
- Roads including A, B, and minor roads;
- Walking routes including the Southern Upland Way, Cross Borders Way, Scottish Hill Tracks, and Public Rights of Way/Core Paths within 5 km of the Proposed Development;
- Hill tops; and
- Promoted visitor attractions.

Viewpoints

6.5.17 A selection of viewpoints has been chosen in consultation with the Energy Consents Unit (ECU), NatureScot and SBC to represent the views experienced towards the Proposed Development within the study area by various groups of people. Selected viewpoints include representative, specific, and illustrative views from publicly accessible locations.

6.5.18 Viewpoints are selected to take account of the viewing experience (such as static views from settlements and sequential views from routes), cumulative views of other developments and as far as possible are representative of the range of key visual receptors and view types (including panoramas, vistas, glimpsed views), as well as being located at varying distances, elevations, and orientations from the Proposed Development.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

6.5.19 The sensitivity or nature of visual receptors is defined by the professional judgement of the interaction between the value of the view experienced by the visual receptor and the susceptibility of the visual receptor (or viewer not the view) to the particular form of change likely to result from the proposed development.

6.5.20 The sensitivity of visual receptors is defined by the relationship between the value of views and the susceptibility of different types of viewer to the proposed change. Both value and susceptibility are identified as high, medium, and low. In general terms, where the value of the view is high and the susceptibility of the viewer to change is low, the overall sensitivity of the visual receptor would be expected to be medium. However, this is not formulaic and can be a complex relationship with different combinations possible. Professional judgement is used to evaluate this complex relationship between value and susceptibility to determine the overall sensitivity of the visual receptor to the proposed development. Overall sensitivity of a visual receptor is identified as High, Medium, and Low, Table 6.3 is used as a guide only.

Table A6.3: Levels of sensitivity of Visual receptors defined by value and susceptibility

Susceptibility of viewer to change ↑ / Value of View ←	High	Medium	Low
High	**High**		
Medium		**Medium**	
Low			**Low**

Magnitude of Visual Change

6.5.21 The nature or magnitude of the effect on visual receptors considers the size and scale, geographical extent, duration, and reversibility of the change likely to result from the Proposed Development.

6.5.22 The worst-case scenario is considered during the assessment of the nature (magnitude) of all visual effects. All changes to views are considered as they would occur in winter conditions with minimal screening by vegetation and deciduous trees. ZTVs and wireframes are similarly displayed on the basis of bare ground and therefore demonstrate the maximum extent of visibility possible, in the absence of buildings or vegetation.

6.5.23 The relationship between all three of the above factors is assessed to determine the overall nature of the visual change resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development. This results in four levels of magnitude: Substantial, Moderate, Slight and Negligible, which is outlined in Table 6.4.

6.5.24 In general, a major visual change in terms of size and scale, seen from many locations with long term reversible or permanent, irreversible effects would result in an overall substantial magnitude of visual change. However, this is a complex relationship between the different factors of magnitude, and various combinations are possible. Each effect is judged on its own merit and the following table is used as a guide only.

Table A6.4: Levels of visual magnitude of potential effect defined by size and scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility

Level of Magnitude	Definition of Magnitude
Substantial	Major visual change which causes a complete or substantial change in the view as a result of loss of important features or the addition of significant new ones, to the extent that the composition of the view is substantially altered. The change is experienced from many locations across the study area, from the majority of a linear route or from most areas within a specific location and/or by a large number of viewers. Changes would last for 35 years or more and are deemed permanent or irreversible.
Moderate	Moderate visual change which causes a noticeable change in the view as a result of the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that the composition of the view is altered to a moderate degree. The change is experienced from a moderate number of locations across the study area, from a moderate part of a linear route or from a moderate proportion of an area within a specific location and/or by a moderate number of viewers. Changes would be long term, between 10 and 35 years but theoretically reversible.
Slight	Minor visual change which causes a perceptible change in the view as a result of the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this partially alters the composition of the view. The change is experienced from a small number of locations across the study area, from only limited sections of a linear route or from a small proportion of an area within a specific location and/or by a small number of viewers. Changes would be wholly or partially reversible and would be medium term, lasting for up to 10 years.
Negligible	Negligible visual change which causes a barely perceptible change in the view as a result of the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this barely alters the composition of the view. The change is either not visible or seen by viewers from only one or two locations across the study area, from very limited sections of a linear route or from hardly any locations within a specific area and/or by only a very small number of viewers. Changes would be reversible, deemed temporary and would last between 0 and 5 years.

Judging the Levels of Significance of Effects

6.5.25 An overall judgement is made on the nature of the receptor and the likely change resulting from the Proposed Development. This judgement is based on evaluations of the individual aspects of value, susceptibility, size and scale, geographical extent, duration, and reversibility. The table below illustrates the four main levels of visual effect that are used in this LVIA; Major, Moderate, Minor and Negligible. Three intermediate combinations are also used for determining landscape effects; Major/moderate, Moderate/minor, and Minor/negligible. The table is not a prescriptive tool, and the evaluation of potential effects makes allowance for the use of professional judgement and experience.

6.5.26 Landscape Institute advice, contained in GLVIA3 statement of clarification 1/13 (June 2013), states that following the determination of magnitude and sensitivity, '*the assessor should then establish (and it is for the assessor to decide and explain) the degree or level of change that is considered to be significant*'. In accordance with this advice, this LVIA establishes at what level in the assessor's opinion, 'significant' effects arise.

6.5.27 Those effects considered to be Major and Major/moderate effects by virtue of the more sensitive receptors and the greater magnitude of effects, are considered to be Significant Effects. Moderate, Moderate/minor, Minor, Minor/negligible and Negligible effects are considered to be Not Significant Effects.

Table A6.5: Levels of Visual effects and overall significance

Nature of Effect (Magnitude) ↑ / Nature of Receptor (Sensitivity) ←	High	Medium	Low
Substantial	**Major**		
Moderate		**Moderate**	
Slight		**Minor**	
Negligible			**Negligible**

6.5.28 A significant visual effect is considered to be a change in the view that would markedly change the composition of that view. It should be noted that significant effects need not be unacceptable or necessarily negative and may be reversible.

Cumulative Effects

6.5.29 The aim of the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) is to identify, predict and evaluate potential key effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development (Scawd Law Wind Farm) to a theoretical landscape baseline which includes the existing baseline situation of operational wind farms and those under construction and additionally includes wind farms currently being considered within the planning system, and that may or may not be present in the landscape in the future.

6.5.30 The methodology for CLVIA follows good practice guidance as set out in the GLVIA3 and *Assessing the Cumulative Effects of Onshore Wind Energy Developments* (SNH, 2012).

Cumulative Approach

6.5.31 SNH guidance defines cumulative effects as '*the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together*.' This highlights the two possible ways of reporting cumulative effects. The first is to consider only the additional effect that would occur in the cumulative baseline, meaning those effects over and above the effects identified in the LVIA assessment. The second is to redo the LVIA assessment but using the theoretical cumulative baseline, so a combined effect is determined.

6.5.32 This CLVIA takes the first approach resulting in a stand-alone assessment which identifies the effects of introducing the proposed development into the cumulative baseline. It is clearly set out whether the effect has increased or decreased relative to the LVIA assessment or whether the effects will be the same as in the LVIA assessment.

Cumulative Baseline

6.5.33 An initial cumulative search area of 60km from the proposed scheme was delineated and a list was prepared including all operational, those schemes under construction, consented schemes, those schemes in the planning system as valid applications (see Figure 6.11). Recently withdrawn sites have not been included and those sites registered with a Pre-Application Notice (PAN), are not finalised applications and have therefore not been included as a valid application but have been included as a pre-application/scoping scheme.

6.5.34 Using this initial Search Area list of developments, an initial cumulative desktop and site assessment was carried out by a CMLI to identify a suitable cumulative baseline (or Cumulative Study Area). In accordance with SNH guidance (2012), the initial Search Area list was therefore refined to establish which developments were of most relevance to the cumulative assessment for the proposal. As the guidance states '*the key principle for all cumulative impact assessments is to focus on the likely significant effects and in particular those which are likely to influence the outcome of the consenting process*'. (Para 33 SNH 2012).

6.5.35 The Cumulative Study Area or cumulative baseline for windfarms was therefore defined to include those developments it was considered required further cumulative assessment. These included all operational, consented, and valid planning applications within an approximate 45 km radius from the proposed site.

6.5.36 The cumulative baseline is divided into different scenarios which reflect which groups of wind farm developments are assumed to be present in the landscape. The existing scenario of operational wind farms and those under construction is assessed in the LVIA and is referred to as Scenario 1. The CLVIA considers the following scenarios;

- **Scenario 2**: considers the addition of the proposed development in the context of operational wind farms, those under construction and additionally those developments currently consented. This represents the likely future scenario; and
- **Scenario 3**: the addition of the proposed development in the context of operational, under construction, consented, undetermined planning applications and wind farm developments currently at appeal i.e., a less certain future scenario.

Cumulative Sensitivity

6.5.37 The susceptibility of receptors may be affected by the presence of other wind energy developments. Some viewers may consider that susceptibility is reduced because other wind farms are 'already there', but for others it may be that sensitivity is increased because more development would be 'too much'. However, to retain a consistent and objective approach, the susceptibility of receptors used for the cumulative assessment is taken to be the same as that identified in the LVIA. The value of the receptor would also remain the same in the cumulative assessment and therefore the overall sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be the same as judged in the LVIA.

Cumulative Magnitude of Change

6.5.38 An overall judgement is made on the nature of the receptor and the likely change resulting from the addition of the proposed development. This judgement is based on evaluations of the individual aspects of value and susceptibility of the receptor as identified in the LVIA and the size and scale, geographical extent, duration, and reversibility of the cumulative change.

Cumulative Landscape Magnitude of Change

6.5.39 There are varying degrees of cumulative landscape effect. These are as follows;

- Multiple wind farms are seen as separate isolated features within the landscape character type, too infrequent and of insufficient significance to be perceived as a characteristic of the area;
- Multiple wind farms are seen as a key characteristic of the landscape, but not of sufficient dominance to be a defining characteristic of the area;
- Multiple windfarms appear as a dominant characteristic of the area, seeming to define the character type as a 'wind farm landscape character area and
- Wind farms cross different character types, reducing the distinction between the different types.

Cumulative Visual Magnitude of Change

6.5.40 With particular regard to visual cumulative effects, the following factors are also considered in determining the magnitude of cumulative visual change from each visual receptor;

- the number of turbine developments visible;
- The prominence of the developments likely to be seen;
- The amount of available view affected;
- The arrangement of turbine developments e.g., developments seen in one direction or in only part of the view, or seen in all directions;
- The relationship of the scale of the turbine developments including size and number of turbines which may also be expressed as the horizontal and vertical angle occupied by turbines;
- The position of the turbine developments in the view e.g., on the skyline, against the backdrop of land;
- The distances from the viewer and between developments;
- The landscape setting, context, and separation (or coalescence) of turbine developments; and
- Potential screening by landcover such as vegetation and local variations in topography.

6.5.41 Four main levels of cumulative magnitude of change are used in this CLVIA; Substantial, Moderate, Slight and Negligible. Three intermediate combinations are also used; Major/moderate, Moderate/minor and Minor/negligible. The evaluation of potential effects makes allowance for the use of professional judgement and experience.

Overall significance of cumulative visual effects

6.5.42 An overall judgement is made on the nature of the receptor and the likely change resulting from the addition of the proposed development. This judgement is based on evaluations of the individual aspects of value and susceptibility of the receptor as identified in the LVIA and the size and scale, geographical extent, duration, and reversibility of the cumulative change. Four main levels of cumulative visual effect are used in this CLVIA; Major, Moderate, Minor

and Negligible. Three intermediate combinations are also used; Major/moderate, Moderate/minor and Minor/negligible. The evaluation of potential effects makes allowance for the use of professional judgement and experience.

6.6 CONSULTATION

Pre-Application Consultation

6.6.1 Natural Power (NP) on behalf of the applicant undertook pre-application consultation with SBC and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH[3]) which included a series of meetings and a site visit undertaken on the 26th of March 2019 attended by SBC. This reviewed a number of different layouts described in Chapter 3: Site Selection. Table 6.6 provides details of the concerns raised by SBC, SNH and the response provided within this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Table 6.6: Summary of Pre-Application Consultation and Response

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
Scottish Borders Council Pre-Application Meeting (31st January 2019)	• *Potential landscape impacts from the access track including cut slopes;*	Noted, the LVIA considers the potential effects of the access track on landscape and visual amenity (see Sections 6.9 & 6.11).
	• *Proposed development does not fall within an area identified for large scale turbines in the capacity report but is on the edge of an area of low capacity for a small group of turbines (up to 10);*	The Proposed Development's location in relation to SBCs landscape capacity study is addressed in Section 6.7 of this Chapter, Chapter 2: Policy Context, and the Planning Statement.
	• *SBC concerned about the potential effects upon the Tweed Valley and upland fringe, in particular the settled valley, A72 road, recreational interests and upper slopes of the valley;*	Noted, the potential effects on these landscape and visual receptors are assessed in this LVIA (see Section 6.11).
	• *SBC concerned about the high number of receptors that may be affected travelling through the valley at it is an important hub when travelling through the region and for recreational pursuits;*	Noted.
	• *Potential effects upon the Southern Upland Way;*	The section of the Southern Upland Way (SUW) passing through the 45 km study area is assessed in this LVIA and includes Viewpoints 16, 17, 19 and 23 (see Appendix 6.5)
	• *Compared to other developments, concerned about the extent of the visual envelope and views shown in the ZTV & wirelines;*	Noted.
	• *Suggested using computer software to illustrate the types of view obtained from the A72 road;*	An assessment of the A72 road has been undertaken and includes Viewpoint 10 (see Section 6.11).
	• *Suggested that a 3km study area for residential receptors on account of the larger turbines, this will be discussed at scoping;*	Noted, a 3 km study area for residential properties has been undertaken (see Appendix 6.6 and summarised in Section 6.11 of this chapter).
	• *Suggested assessment of settlements within 5km;*	An assessment of settlements has been undertaken and includes Walkerburn, Innerleithen, Peebles, Traquair, Peel and Clovenfords (see Section 6.11).
	• *SBC concerned about the effects of turbines on mountain bikers and other recreational users within the valley. The proposed developments for Innerleithen biking was noted;*	Noted, recreational users have been considered in the assessment of sequential routes (see Sections 6.X & 6.11).
	• *SBC raised concerns about the visual envelope shown on the ZTV as being smaller for the larger turbines;*	Noted, this was checked for accuracy and confirmed with SBC at a subsequent meeting.
	• *SBC raised concerns about views of the proposed development from Melrose, Tweedbank;*	The ZTV shown on Figure 6.2b shows theoretical visibility of 1-6 turbines at a distance of 16.1 km from the Proposed Development. Following verification in the field, it was not considered that both settlements would receive a significant effect on account of distance from the Proposed Development combined with intervening screening by forestry and surrounding built form. Both settlements were therefore scoped out of the assessment.
	• *Assessment should consider the Upper Tweeddale NSA;*	An assessment of the special qualities of the Tweeddale National Scenic Area (NSA) has been undertaken and Viewpoint 15 represents views from the eastern edge of the designation (see Section 6.11).
	• *Cumulative to include Longpark, SBC to provide details of sites to be included in the cumulative assessment;*	The potential for cumulative effects was raised as a concern with reference to recent applications regarding larger turbines. Cumulative sites were derived from the Scottish Borders Wind Development Applications June 2021[4]
	• *SBC have cumulative database on their website;*	Noted, this formed the basis of data gathering for cumulative sites and it's subsequent updates. Appendix 6.2 lists the operational and cumulative developments considered.
	• *Consideration that the proposed development is in a transitional landscape between LCT/LCAs, consider the Scottish Borders Landscape Character Assessment;*	This assessment and subsequent update by NatureScot in 2019 has been considered in this LVIA (see Sections 6.8 & 6.11).
	• *SBC suggested that there would be a lot of concern locally about a wind farm on the site;*	Noted.
	• *Very concerned about aviation lighting, especially within the existing dark sky context.*	The potential effects from aviation lighting have been considered in detail in Chapter 14: Aviation and Other Matters and

[3] *Please note Scottish Natural Heritage have changed name to NatureScot during this assessment and will be referred to interchangeably in this Chapter.

[4] Scottish Borders Council. *Windfarm database – June 2021 (Database Report)* [online], Scottish Borders Council, viewed December 2021 <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/528/windfarm_database_-_june_2021_database_report>

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
		assessed in this Chapter (see Section 6.11).
	• *Agreed to send the Crystal Rig SI for reference;*	Actioned.
	• *Landscape Architect to review and suggest viewpoints;*	Follow-up consultation undertaken specific to LVIA (see SBC Pre-Application Comments regarding Viewpoints, 21st March 2019 below).
	• *Landscape Architect requested larger scale ZTVs showing Landscape Character and Landscape Designations with the ZTV overlay;*	Actioned.
SBC / Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Pre-Application Meeting – 2 (26th February 2019)	Further discussions were held regarding the layout design and its relationship to the landscape, and the potential effects of aviation lighting.	A site visit was arranged between the applicant, SBC and SNH, the latter declined to attend.
SBC Pre-Application Comments regarding Viewpoints (21st March 2019)	*I have looked at the latest ZTV (that arrived with the Council on the day of our last meeting)and confirm that for the purposes of next Tuesday's site visit it would be useful to have wirelines for Preliminary Viewpoints 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 (the remainder will be useful for our own separate site visit) I have looked at Core Paths long distance paths, cycle routes and visibility from the road network to establish further viewpoints that might be included in any future LVIA, including The Peeble Rig to the WNW of site (5.5km), a viewpoint in the vicinity of Dewar Gill on the B709 (National Cycle Route 1) ($.5km) , a Viewpoint on Core path 41 at cairn to south (east) of Scroof Hill ENE of site (3.5km)and one on Lauder Common as the road starts to descend towards Stow (11.5km). These are a few additional ones – but not necessary for our site visit on Tuesday.* *I am happy to consider a more comprehensive list of viewpoints should this project be taken forward.*	Wirelines were provided from the requested viewpoints prior to the site visit on the 26th of March 2019.
SBC Consultation Response to Planning or Related Application (6th June 2019)	***Key Issues*** • *Landscape and Visual impact on land covered by national and local designations including National Scenic Areas (NSA), Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Special Landscape Area (SLA), as well as other statutory environmental designations.*	Protected and designated landscapes within the 45 km study area have initially been considered in Appendix 6.4, followed by a detailed assessment in Sections 6.8 and 6.11 of this Chapter.
	• *The visual impact on the Tweed Valley, which is designated as NSA or SLA for more than half of its length for the quality of its landscape. The designation statement for the Tweed Valley SLA identifies the Tweed Valley as very typical of the Borders and the most familiar of the Borders valleys with a strong sense of place and a varied mix of landscape elements contributing to the contrast between the well settled valley and the bare heather and grass moors and landmark hills. Immediately to the south the Tweedsmuir Uplands from Minch Moor, a key summit overlooking the Tweed to the north, across which the Southern Upland Way (SUW) traverses, to the Yarrow in the east and to the Council boundary in the west and south west. It goes on to describe the Tweedsmuir Uplands as a highly scenic area of dramatic landform, having a strong sense of wildness while being used for recreation with the Southern Upland Way among the many signposted routes in the area.*	The special qualities of the NSA, Tweed Valley and Tweedsmuir Uplands Special Landscape Areas (SLA) have been considered in this LVIA (see Sections 6.8 and 6.11 of this Chapter).
	Assessment • *The Zone of Theoretical Visibility mapping for a windfarm of 18no turbines up to 177m in height shows quite significant amounts of the more elevated parts of the Tweed Valley and Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA on the southern side of the Tweed will have visibility of the windfarm. The preliminary wirelines provided at this stage show that from eight of the ten viewpoints, 13 or more turbines will be visible.*	Noted, theoretical visibility within the Tweed Valley and surrounding uplands has been constantly reviewed as the layout design has evolved.
	• *This central core area of the Borders, being heavily used for recreational activities, is regarded as highly sensitive to windfarm developments and the management recommendations for both the SLAs that will be affected by the proposed windfarm is to consider the visual effects on views to and from the landscapes and well as from within the valley.* *Given that the aim of Policy EP5 is to protect against inappropriate development that might have a negative impact on SLA and given the proximity of the proposal to what could be considered the jewel in the crown of the Scottish Borders and the effort that has been made previously to keep windfarms back from this core area, I would be unlikely to support a windfarm that will be visible at relatively close distances from a range of sensitive viewpoints and receptors and would urge the applicant to look again at the suitability of the site for such a development*	Noted, the potential effect on sensitive landscape and visual receptors has been considered throughout the design evolution of the project (see Chapter 3: Site Selection).

Source: Pre-Application Communications between SBC and NP.

Scoping

6.6.2 A scoping request was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU), in July 2019. This contained detailed and focused LVIA questions pertaining to the overall methodology of the LVIA and the landscape, visual and cumulative receptors to be assessed. A Scoping Opinion was issued by the ECU on the 21st of October 2020 which included a response to the LVIA questions from relevant consultees as summarised in Table 6.7, along with details of how these have been addressed in the LVIA.

Table 6.7: Summary of Scoping Consultation and Response

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
NatureScot	*Our key concern about this development is the landscape and visual impacts, including cumulative impacts with other proposed, consented and operational wind farms in the wider area. This includes from the aviation lighting that will be required due to turbine height.*	Noted, an assessment of cumulative sites within 45 km and aviation lighting has been undertaken throughout the LVIA.
	Landscape and visual impacts	The effects from aviation lighting have been undertaken throughout this LVIA.

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
	We note the proposed approach to the assessment of impacts and that this will include those arising from the aviation lighting that will be required for these turbines.	
	We offer no comment at this time on the proposed viewpoints and would be pleased to offer advice on this once there is more certainty about the turbine layout.	Further consultation on viewpoint selection was undertaken following the layout design freeze.
Scottish Borders Council	*"I refer to the applicant's Scoping Report dated 28 July 2020 and confirm that the general approach to landscape and visual assessment is appropriate and acceptable.*	Noted.
	Question 6 - I agree with the LVIA and CLVIA methodologies proposed.	Noted.
	Question 7 - The selection of viewpoints cannot be agreed until ZTV information is supplied on an OS 1:50,000 base plan with contours.	Further consultation post-scoping opinion on viewpoint selection was undertaken following a layout design freeze and the requested information provided.
	Question 8 – Further information on aviation lighting is required and only after having access to a more detailed ZTV can it be agreed which or that only a limited number of viewpoints may be illustrated in additional photomontage using photographs taken at dusk.	Aviation lighting intensity ZTVs have been produced (see Figures 6.4 – 6.5h) and 5 night-time viewpoints assessed.
	I am concerned that even though turbine heights and dimensions are getting much bigger than even 5 years ago, the radius for residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) remains at 2km – I suggest this should be increased and further discussion should take place with the planning authority as to the distance from the development where it would be appropriate to carry out RVAA.	Noted, a 3 km study area for the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) was agreed following post-scoping opinion consultation.
	Question 10 - agree to the approach to sequential assessment." *In terms of the sequential assessment, additional B roads should be considered such as the B709 and the B7062..*	Both B roads noted have been considered in the Sequential Assessment (see Sections 6.8 and 6.11).
	There is reference only to the production of wireframes for viewpoints but photomontages are recommended as best practice and, indeed, all wind farm applications in the Borders appear to have been accompanied by photomontages at least to those viewpoints with the most significant effects.	Both wirelines and photomontages have been produced to illustrate the Proposed Development and are shown in Volume 3b.
	In terms of the cumulative baseline as described on Figure 11.3, "Heathpool" is queried to the east of the A703 and south-west of "Bowbeat". Is this just reflecting consent for an anemometry mast ?	Noted, the cumulative baseline has been informed by the SBC Windfarm database – June 2021 (Database Report) (see Appendix 6.2 for a full list of cumulative sites considered in the LVIA).
	Additional Viewpoints *As stated by the Landscape Architect, final viewpoint selection must await ZTV production on a 1:50000 plan with contours. However, it is considered that additional viewpoints should be considered within the Upper Tweeddale NSA, on the public road south of the Tweed between Innerleithen and Yair, more than one viewpoint on the A72, at Selkirk Common and an additional one in the Traquair/Glen vicinity.*	Additional viewpoints have been included as follows: • Upper Tweeddale NSA – Viewpoint 15: Hundleshope Heights (Figures 6.31a-f); • Public Road south of the Tweed between Innerleithen and Yair – Viewpoint 12: Minor Road/NCR1 (The Batta) (Figures 6.28a-f), and Viewpoint 14: Peel (Figures 6.30a-f); • Selkirk Common – Viewpoint 20 (Figures 6.36a-f); and • Traquair – Viewpoint 13 (Figures 6.29a-f). No further viewpoints were considered on the A72 road due to a combination of limited theoretical visibility predicted and health and safety. An assessment of this route is included in Appendix 6.5.
	Residential Visual Amenity *The Scoping Report states there is only one property within 2km which is presumably "Seathope" – however, the OS Plan suggests another property alongside known as "Caberstongrains". This should be checked as there is no information to suggest it has been considered.*	Both Seathope and Caberstongrains properties are included in the RVAA (see Appendix 6.6).
	The Scoping Report suggests scoping out a RVAA on the basis there are no financially uninvolved properties within a 2km study area. However, taking into account the views of the Landscape Architect and given the height of the turbines now proposed at 180m tip, it could be considered that SPP and other guidance sought a 2km distance at a time when such turbine heights were never thought possible onshore. It is, therefore, recommended that if there are settlements or individual properties over 2km distant but less than 3km, then they should feature in a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. *From inspection, there are a number such properties including "Blackhopebyre", "Glentress", "Colquhar" and a group of properties at "The Common", all on the B709. Other more isolated properties exist at "Caddonhead", "Scroof", "Priesthope" and the group of properties at Holylee. Of all of these, "Priesthope" appears the nearest and actually within the 2km study distance. It is appreciated not all of these may be habitable dwellings but they should be checked before being scoped out.* *At this stage, we cannot agree that it is correct to scope out a RVAA.*	Noted, the RVAA has been extended to 3 km from the outermost proposed turbines and includes the properties listed by SBC (see Appendix 6.6). The scope for the RVAA was agreed following post-scoping opinion.
	Core Paths, Public Rights of Way and Promoted Paths *According to the records held by Scottish Borders Council, there are no core paths or rights of way within this area of land (see map below). There are however other core paths, rights of way and promoted paths in the local area from which the development will be clearly visible. Mapping of the wider path network across the Scottish Borders can be found at: www.scotborders.gov.uk/mapadvanced.* *Please note that SBC does not have a definitive record of every claimed right of way within its area. The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society, community*	Core Paths located within 5 km of the Proposed Development have been considered in this LVIA (see Sections 6.8 & 6.11).

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
	councils and local residents may have evidence of existence of claimed rights of way that have not yet been recorded by SBC.	
Ettrick & Yarrow Community Council	*Possible Additional Viewpoints:* *We would like to propose that two extra viewpoints are included:* *(1) Newark Hill, GR 446287. This would be seen by walkers and is an excellent, almost 360 degree viewing point on the very popular Duchess Drive walking route around Bowhill Estate; and* *(2) Witchieknowe GR 370258. This is at the top of the well-used though minor road between Ettrickbridge and Yarrow and is also the on a very popular walk along the tops, passing Black Knowe – so of interest to both walkers and road users*	The view from Newark Hill has been considered in the sequential route assessment undertaken in this Chapter (see Section 6.11). Views to the south are represented by Minch Moor Viewpoint 17 (Figures 6.33a-g).
Heriot Community Council	***Landscape and Visual Amenity Viewpoints.*** *As already discussed, both schemes together will potentially result in a major change to these residents' visual amenity. No Viewpoints have been put forward for Heriot in the list provided in the scoping report. This omission needs to be put right, which presumably requires agreement with SBC and SNH.*	See previous comment on viewpoints to Heriot Community Council.
	It will also be necessary to consider montages that demonstrate the effect of aviation lighting being necessary for the turbines of both schemes, as currently this area of the countryside is almost totally devoid of artificial lighting at night. Both these points were discussed briefly at an online meeting with the developers and accepted as valid.	Five viewpoints have been selected to demonstrate the potential effects of night-time aviation lights as follows: • Viewpoint 2: Lauder Common; • Viewpoint 6: The Sware; • Viewpoint 8: Lee Pen; • Viewpoint 16: SUW/B709 road near Kirkhouse; and • SUW, Minch Moor. These were agreed during post-scoping consultation with SBC.
	It should also be noted that the Reporter hearing the Wull Muir appeal (PPA-140- 2080) is currently nearing issuing his decision (see latest document on DPEA web site). The Wull Muir scheme lies just to the west of Nettlingflat, and both SBC and Heriot CC made extensive comments on its impact on local amenity. There are also montages available of this scheme as from Nettlingflat. If the scheme is approved, a full cumulative assessment at Nettlingflat will need to include all three schemes.	Wull Muir was refused consent on the 19th of October 2020. A PAN has been submitted for a new scheme which has been included in this LVIA.
	It may be appropriate that other Viewpoints are considered in the Heriot area that have been suggested for Greystone Knowe. These include the public footpath to the north of Heriot Mill, and also Corsehope Rings, which was also used for assessing Wull Muir.	Noted, these locations were considered prior to the finalised viewpoint list
	It should also be borne in mind that although there are very few houses in the southern part of Heriot that extends to around 5kms of Scawd Law, there are a few properties that belong to Raeshaw Estate. These are within the boundaries of Fountainhall although most of the Estate is within Heriot. These properties are in between the two wind farm sites. *It is widely acknowledged that montages produced in line with SNH guidelines are the best way of informing the general public as to the changes wind farm proposals will have on the local landscape and residential amenity in its fullest sense (covering not just views from properties, but also leisure activities outdoors, and indeed on the local farming community in their daily work).*	Noted
Innerleithen and District Community Council	*Question 7: Do consultees agree with the suggested viewpoint locations and visualisations detailed in Table 11.2?* *The following additional viewpoint locations should be included:* *Lee Pen* *OS Grid Ref: E:332594; N:638636)* *Lee Pen is a pronounced and obvious summit (502m) in this part of the Tweed Valley, and a very popular walk from Innerleithen (https:www.walkhighlands.co.uk/borders/lee-pen.shtml). Access is gained through the Woodland Trust Scotland owned Caerlee Woods and through gates and a style maintained by the Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service and is shown as promoted path' on the Scottish Borders Adopted Core Path Plan Area 30.*	Lee Pen has been included as a viewpoint (see Viewpoint 8, Figures 6.24a-g).
	Priesthope Hill *OS Grid Ref: (E:335090; N:639951)* *Priesthope Hill is the 549m summit at the top of the 'Golfie' MTB trails in Innerleithen (https:trailforks.com/poi/15536/) that hosts some of the UK's best trails which has over 100km of trails, and ridden by thousands of mountain bikers each year (https://www.mbr.co.uk/news/innerleithen-golfie-391422). It has hosted numerous Enduro mountain bike races over the last decade including rounds of the Enduro World Series.*	Priesthope Hill has been included as a viewpoint (see Viewpoint 5, Figures 6.21a-f).
Parish of Stow Community Council	*The Greystone Knowe application takes on new significance as Scawd Law and Greystone Knowe both have turbines with a proposed tip height of 180m, far in excess of the heights of existing wind turbines in the area and the implications of the height of these two windfarms on the surrounding area, the noise generated and the effects on the night sky of lighting should be considered, as well as the cumulative effect of existing windfarms.*	Both a cumulative assessment and an assessment of the potential effects from aviation lighting has been undertaken and are detailed in Section 6.11
	Scawd Law windfarm is located on very high ground and will be visible from Stow. The Parish of Stow is an area of high ground with residential areas built on hills. There need to be visual points from Stow included. A	A viewpoint has been included on the Lauder Common (see Viewpoint 2, Figures 6.18a-g)

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
	suggested point is at the top of Craigend Road. However other high areas of Stow could also be considered. Scawd Law is also likely to affect Raeshaw, which straddles the Heriot and Fountainhall boundary.	
	The effect on tourism in the Parish of Stow area should be considered. Since the Station was opened at Stow, the local community have been promoting Stow as a place to visit. The Old Station House is currently being renovated by Stow Community Trust and a bicycle facility is proposed there. Paths are being proposed for walkers and the C11 between Stow and Fountainhall is already used by cyclists. Other roads in the area are also being proposed as cycle routes. The visual and noise effects of Scawd Law need to be considered, especially as one cycle route is from Stow to Clovenfords.	Routes that are predicted to receive theoretical visibility have been assessed in the Sequential Route Assessment included in this Chapter (see Section 6.11).
Walkerburn & District Community Council (2nd March 2021)	***Question 6: Do the consultees agree with the LVIA and CLVIA methodologies proposed?*** *Answer: We think so but we are concerned that the Scottish Borders Council Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact Report should be properly considered.*	The Scottish Borders Landscape Capacity Study has been addressed in Section 6.7 of this LVIA, Chapter 2: Policy Context, and the Planning Statement.
	Question 7: Do consultees agree with the suggested viewpoint locations and visualisations detailed in Table 11.2? *Answer: No. There are places on National Cycle Route 1 and on significant walking routes such as the Southern Upland Way from which the turbines will be highly visible and these should be included especially given the cumulative impact. It is neither sensible nor reasonable to propose only viewpoints from which there is little impact.*	Viewpoints have been considered where there is the potential for significant effects to occur in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Scotland) 2017. Viewpoints have been included on the NCR1 and SUW. Additionally, both routes are assessed in the sequential route assessment included in this Chapter. Viewpoints have been identified through extensive consultation with statutory consultees and have been chosen to illustrate potential effects from the most sensitive landscape and visual receptors. In addition to the viewpoints, the assessment of route receptors is supported by ZTV mapping, wireline diagrams and fieldwork.
	Question 8: Do consultees agree with the approach suggested for aviation lighting? *Answer: No. The height of these turbines mean that lighting will impact on residential properties in an area which is currently free of artificial light. We are also concerned at the cumulative impact of aviation lighting as more and more large turbines are placed in existing wind farms and proposed developments.*	An aviation lighting assessment has been undertaken as part of this LVIA. Based on the current layout, no properties within proximity of the Proposed Development including those situated at Walkerburn and Innerleithen are likely to obtain views of aviation lighting due to a combination of the mitigation employed (including the type of light used which reduces the extent of visibility), and by screening from landform. As part of the aviation lighting assessment, sites within planning that include details on aviation lighting are considered in the cumulative assessment.
	Question 9: Do consultees agree with the proposed RVAA study area of 2 km and the general RVAA methodology outlined above? *Answer: No. These turbines are significantly higher than those for which the 2km radius was designed many years ago and they are also set on the highest hill in the Moorfoots. In our view there is a case for the 2km limit to be revised given the height of the turbines. The visual impact in our opinion goes up with the square of the increase in height and we feel that in this instance the radius should be set at 5km. There will be a significant number of turbines visible from properties to the South of Tweed at Walkerburn and along the road to Peel. We do not think that the residential visual amenity assessment should be scoped out.*	The RVAA study area has been extended to 3 km in agreement with SBC during post-scoping opinion consultation. The potential effect on views from settlements has also been considered (Appendix 6.6).
	Question 10: Do consultees agree with the approach to the sequential assessment? *Answer: No. There are critical tourist routes and core paths outside the 5km limit suggested. The A roads mentioned in your scoping report are remote from this development and we do not understand why they have been included. We will contact you separately to request clarification. We think that the B709 both north and south of Innerleithen, the B7062 and the D83/1 Walkerburn to Peel roads should be included in the sequential assessment. Given the visibility during the descent from Paddy Slacks towards Traquair on the B709 the radius should be extended to 10km rather than 5km.*	Noted, the sequential route assessment has included routes where it was considered that a significant effect could occur. Routes assessed are detailed in Sections 6.8 & 6.11.
	Question 12: Do consultees have comments regarding the cumulative baseline? *Answer. We believe that more attention/weight should be given to the SBC 2016 report on cumulative impact. It appears to be being downplayed.*	The Scottish Borders Landscape Capacity Study has been addressed in this LVIA, Chapter 2: Policy Context, and the Planning Statement.
Mountaineering Scotland	*Q.7 (1) There is no viewpoint to illustrate the potential effect on the western Moorfoots. This has a number of summits likely to be affected and is popular for walks from Peebles and Gladhouse/Portmore.*	A viewpoint has been included from the summit of White Meldon (Viewpoint 4, Figures 6.20a-f).
	Q.7 (2) There is no viewpoint to illustrate the potential effect on the high ground to the south of Peebles (the ridges above Glensax and The Glen). Again these are popular walking areas. Viewpoint 5 is on the edge of this area but it is in a valley. A much more suitable viewpoint would be where the Southern Upland Way begins to descend from Blake Muir, with an unobstructed view forward to the proposed development.	A viewpoint has been included on the SUW from Blake Muir (Viewpoint 23, Figures 6.39a-f).

Source: Scawd Law Wind Farm - Scoping Opinion 21st October 2020

Community Council Consultations

6.6.3 Between August 2020 and January 2021, the Applicant has engaged with several Community Councils at a series of virtual consultation events. Comments and concerns raised by community councils in relation to LVIA are detailed in Table 6.8 as follows.

Table 6.8: Summary of Community Council Consultation Meetings and Response

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
Peebles Community Council (24th August 2020)	*At this stage we suggest that the following viewpoints be included in your ZTV programming, if they have not already been considered:* ***Hamilton Hill -*** *323476, 642336* ***Cademuir Hill -*** *324178, 637687* ***Kailzie Hill -*** *328130, 636016* ***Glentress -*** *328224, 642109* ***The Sware -*** *https://goo.gl/maps/vP3b3pqvKk2htND96* ***Peebles golf course -*** *https://goo.gl/maps/ZyoUwx34oGvcCWEm8* ***Haylodge Park -*** *https://goo.gl/maps/hpZ9LS2Pz7FPxyx3A* ***Horsburgh Castle -*** *https://goo.gl/maps/beFoQsiJknzQVhin9* ***Wallace Hill*** *- https://goo.gl/maps/fyJffnxeFNiAgL6V8* ***The Meldons -*** ***https://goo.gl/maps/g9ai2ZufquYvhQsj6*** *Minch Moor (Included in Scoping report)*	The selected viewpoints were considered as the proposed layout evolved alongside viewpoints discussed with SBC. The following have been included as viewpoints in the LVIA: • White Meldon (Viewpoint 4); • The Sware (Viewpoint 6); and • Minch Moor Viewpoint 17). The viewpoints listed below were not included for the following reasons: • Cademuir Hill – in the vicinity of Viewpoints 6 & 9; • Kailzie Hill – covered by the assessment of the Cross Borders Drove Road; and • Wallace Hill – covered by forestry. • Glentress Forest – limited theoretical visibility predicted combined with forrestry; • Hamilton Hill – similar view to White Meldon (Viewpoint 4); • Peebles Golf Course – limited theoretical visibility predicted to the western side of the golf course; • Haylodge Park – very limited theoretical visibility predicted to a small area in the west covered by trees; and • Horsburgh Castle – Limited theoretical visibility of 1-2 turbines predicted.
	Each of the above should be considered cumulatively with the following existing or planned windfarms – distances are from Peebles *Carcant wind farm (18.7m) Existing (Included in Scoping report)* *Bowbeat wind farm (15.5m) Existing (Included in Scoping report)* *Longpark wind farm (18.9m) Existing (Included in Scoping* *Cloich Forrest wind farm (7.8m) Pre-development phase.*	All the noted sites have been included in the cumulative baseline scenarios assessed.
Walkerburn / Innerleithen / Stow Community Council (3rd September 2020)	***1. Viewpoints for further consideration with Scottish Borders Council Planners:*** ***Mountainbike Trails:*** *Priesthope Hill (by the Golfie marked on the Trailforks app)*	Priesthope Hill has been included, see Viewpoint 5 (Figures 6.21a – f)
	Walking route: *Lea Pen, highest hill overlooking Innerleithen which is a well-used and popular path.*	A viewpoint from the summit of Lee Pen has been included, see Viewpoint 8 (Figures 6.24.a-g).
	Cumulative Impact: *It is noted that cumulative LVIA includes all known windfarms operating or at various stages in development (scoping etc. this includes Greystone Knowe).*	It is understood there are further windfarms in the very early stages of development in the local area. The cumulative baseline has been informed by SBCs Windfarm database – June 2021 (Database Report) at https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/308/windfarm_resources.
Heriot Community Council (8th of September 2020)	***1. Viewpoints and photomontages****: Two viewpoints were requested as follows:* • B668 Road at Crookston, South Mains – 342694, 652306; and • Nettling Flat – 342566, 652197.	Both viewpoints have not been included following a field visit which predicts limited visibility due to screening by woodland.
	2. Aviation lighting*: The Community Council have not been aware of the requirement for lighting of turbines over 150m until this project. Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited (FORL) advised it may not be necessary to light all the turbines over 150m. John has been researching aviation lighting and would appreciate additional guidance and visuals from FORL on this aspect ahead of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) submission.*	Work has been undertaken throughout the design evolution of the Proposed Development by aviation specialists to produce an acceptable lighting scheme for the development that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) can accept (see Chapter 14: Aviation and other Matters).
	8. Update cumulative impact assessment map*: The Community Council feedback that we can remove the Gilston and Cath Pair projects from the assessment.*	Noted.
Clovenfords and District Community Council (14th September 2020)	No comments in relation to LVIA.	No Action.
Councillor Stuart Bell – Tweedale East / Clovenfords Community Council (21st January 2021)	Requested viewpoints *"on the C-class Road that runs on the South of the Tweed from Ashiestiel Bridge to Walkerburn"* and *'a view from Clovenfords – specifically from about grid reference 450363."*	Noted, viewpoints have been included at Peel (Viewpoint 14, Figures 6.30a-f) and Clovenfords (Viewpoint 21, Figures 6.37a-f).

Source: FORL Community Council Meeting Minutes

Post-Scoping Opinion Consultation

6.6.4 Following the issuing of the Scoping Opinion by the ECU, further consultation was undertaken with SBC on the 4th of February 2021 and a project update on the 27th of October 2021. This provided details of an update to the turbine layout, identified 23 viewpoints including 5 night-time viewpoints to represent night-time effects from aviation lighting and confirmed the approach to the cumulative baseline. Table 6.9 provides the consultation comments and response.

Table 6.9: Summary of Post-Scoping Opinion Consultation and Response

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
Scottish Borders Council (8th April 2021)	*Q7 – Viewpoint selection. I am satisfied with the 20 revised viewpoints chosen with comment on two of these:-*	Noted.
	1. VP7 – A7 – Buckholm – might be worth considering moving this slightly further north along the A7 to get improved visibility/ panorama as you come around that sweeping bend.	Viewpoint location retained due to access restrictions and health and safety issues.
	2. VP13 – Traquair (HES Inventory DL) – this viewpoint maybe needs further local investigation to get best location from DL	Noted, viewpoint re-located to address both LVIA and Cultural Heritage concerns (see Figures 6.29a-f).
	Q8 – Aviation Lighting viewpoints – I have looked at the selected viewpoints to illustrate aviation lights and acknowledge they are logical in terms of visibility from roads, settlements etc. They will demonstrate visual effects from the most frequented night time locations but I note that they all demonstrate 750 – 10 candela intensity. Given my concerns about visibility of the development from the hills to the south of Tweed valley and especially the SUW, I suggest it would be useful to have at least 1 aviation lighting VP from this area and suggest VP 17, close to the SUW would be the most appropriate and would also have the benefit of demonstrating the effect of lighting intensity at 2000 candelas. If it were felt inappropriate to have more than 5 aviation lighting VPs, could I suggest VP 17 is substituted for VP7 ?	Noted, night-time Viewpoint 7 has been substituted for Viewpoint 17 and will be shown in the night-time visualisations (Figures 6.33a-f).

Source: Scawd Law – LVIA Consultation: SBC Response via email 8th April 2021

6.6.5 This iterative consultation process has informed the landscape, visual and cumulative baseline receptors 'scoped in' and 'out' of the detailed assessment. The potential effects on these receptors are assessed in detail in Appendices 6.2 – 6.6 and summarised in this Chapter.

6.7 LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

6.7.1 The relevant national and local planning policies are considered in detail in Chapter 2: Policy Context.

6.7.2 Current local planning policy is described in the: Scottish Borders Local Development Plan (adopted 2016). The Scottish Borders Proposed Development Plan 2 (2020)(" PLDP2") is subject to further consultation and is likely to be subject to some change. The status of it is addressed in Chapter 2.and the Planning Statement.

6.7.3 The relevant policies from the adopted Local Plan (2016) and how the Proposed Development responds to each policy in relation to landscape and visual matters are detailed below.

Policy PMD1: Sustainability

6.7.4 This policy covers the SBCs premise of supporting and encouraging sustainable development and action on climate change in accordance with the council's Environmental Strategy. Specifically in relation to landscape, the policy identifies a series of sustainability policies including:

'c) the protection of natural resources, landscapes, habitats, and species.

h) the minimisation of light pollution.'

6.7.5 The potential effect on landscape and visual amenity has been considered throughout the design evolution of the Proposed Development; firstly, by ensuring that the Proposed Development is not located within a national or local landscape designation, and secondly through the design response which considered each of the policies set out as well as good practice guidance by NatureScot (2017).[5] Light pollution from aviation lighting has been considered and is detailed in Section 6.6 Mitigation.

Policy ED9: Renewable Energy

6.7.6 This policy sets out SBCs support for renewable energy development including on shore wind turbines as follows: *'Renewable energy developments, including wind energy proposals, will be approved provided that there are no relevant unacceptable significant adverse impacts or effects that cannot be satisfactory mitigated. If there are judged to be relevant significant adverse impacts or effects that cannot be satisfactory mitigated, the development will only be approved if the council is satisfied that the wider economic, environmental and other benefits of the proposal outweigh the potential damage arising from it.'*

6.7.7 Specific considerations relevant to landscape and visual identified under the policy include the following:

- *'the onshore spatial framework which identifies those areas that are likely to be most appropriate for onshore wind turbines;*
- *landscape and visual impacts, to include effects on wild land, and taking into account the report on Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact (July 2013) as an initial reference point, the landscape and visual impact assessment for a proposal (which should demonstrate that it can be satisfactory accommodated in the landscape, and should properly address the issues raised in the 2013 report), and other relevant landscape, visual and cumulative impact guidance, for example that produced by Scottish Natural Heritage;*
- *all cumulative impacts, including cumulative landscape and visual impact, recognising that in some areas the cumulative impact of existing and consented development may limit the capacity for further development;*
- *impacts on communities and individual dwellings (including visual impact, residential amenity, noise and shadow flicker)'.*

6.7.8 The above have been considered during the design evolution of the Proposed Development. The spatial framework identifies the site as lying in an area between the Moorfoot Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the north, and an area of significant protection covering the Tweed Valley to the south with the proposed site being located within an area identified with the potential for wind farm development (see Image 6.1 below).

6.7.9 Landscape and visual effects are considered in this chapter which has included Wild Land Areas (WLA), the nearest being the Talla-Hart Fell WLA located 22.3 km to the south west of the Proposed Development and subsequently scoped out of the assessment due to distance and the limited extent of theoretical visibility predicted (see Figure 6.7).

6.7.10 The proposed site is located within a large-scale landscape with characteristics suitable for accommodating large-scale wind farms as well as being set back from the Tweed Valley to minimise potential effects on receptors within the valley floor.

6.7.11 The proposed site is 8.3 km to the nearest operational wind farm developments and would appear as a separate development. Operational wind farms are considered as baseline (Scenario 1), consented (Scenario 2) and application sites (Scenario 3) in the assessment.

6.7.12 A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (TA6.5) has been undertaken for properties located within 3 km of the Proposed Development as agreed with SBC.

[5] NatureScot (2017) Siting and designing wind farms in the landscape, Version 3a

Policy EP4: National Scenic Areas

6.7.13 This policy sets out SBC aims to protect the two National Scenic Areas within the Scottish Borders and states that development will only be permitted where:

'a) the objectives of designation and the overall landscape value of the site and its surrounds will not be compromised, or

b) any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the site or its surrounds have been designated are clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance.'

6.7.14 Potential effects upon the Upper Tweeddale NSA are considered in Sections 6.8 and 6.11 of this chapter. The Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA was scoped out of the assessment due to distance from the Proposed Development and the limited theoretical visibility predicted where such it was considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would not affect the identified special qualities of it.

Policy EP5: Special Landscape Areas

6.7.15 This policy identifies SBCs intent to ensure areas identified as Special Landscape Areas (SLA) are afforded adequate protection against inappropriate development as follows:

'In assessing proposals for development that may affect Special Landscape Areas, the Council will seek to safeguard landscape quality and will have particular regard to the landscape impact of the proposed development, including the visual impact. Proposals that have a significant adverse impact will only be permitted where the landscape impact is clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national or local importance.'

6.7.16 SBC's decision making is guided by Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Local Landscape Designations. This assessment considers three SLAs as follows (see Section 6.8 and 6.9 of this Chapter):

- Tweed Valley;
- Tweed, Yarrow and Ettrick Confluences; and
- Tweedsmuir Uplands.

Policy EP10: Gardens and Designed Landscapes

6.7.17 This policy seeks to protect the character and setting of Gardens and Designed Landscapes as follows:

'All development should be carefully sited, be of the highest standards of design using appropriate finishing materials and planting and be informed by and respectful of the historic landscape structures. Proposals that will result in an unacceptable adverse impact will be refused.'

6.7.18 There are several GDLs within the 45 km study area surrounding the Proposed Development. These are each considered and following analysis detailed in Appendix 6.3, scoped in one GDL, Traquair House, 1.5 km to the south west of the Proposed Development. This GDL is described and assessed in Sections 6.8 and 6.9 of this Chapter and Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.

Policy EP13: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

6.7.19 This policy provides protection to the woodland resource within the SBC administrative area.

6.7.20 No woodland would be affected by the Proposed Development.

Supporting Guidance

6.7.21 In addition to the LDPs above, other relevant local guidance and baseline documents have been considered as follows:

Scottish Borders Council Supplementary Guidance: Renewable Energy, July 2018

6.7.22 This supplementary guidance (SG) supports Policy ED9 of the local planned includes the identification of areas suitable for wind energy development as required by Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). The SG also includes a number of landscape capacity plans intended to identify where there is strategic capacity for different sizes of wind farms. However, it is noted that it is recognised that capacity studies are considered in the context of individual applications as sensitivity studies. The Proposed Development is identified in the SG as being located within an '*Area with potential for wind development'* (see Image 6.1). In relation to landscape and visual matters, the SG is supported *by Appendix C: Ironside Farrar Study on Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact 2016* as discussed below.

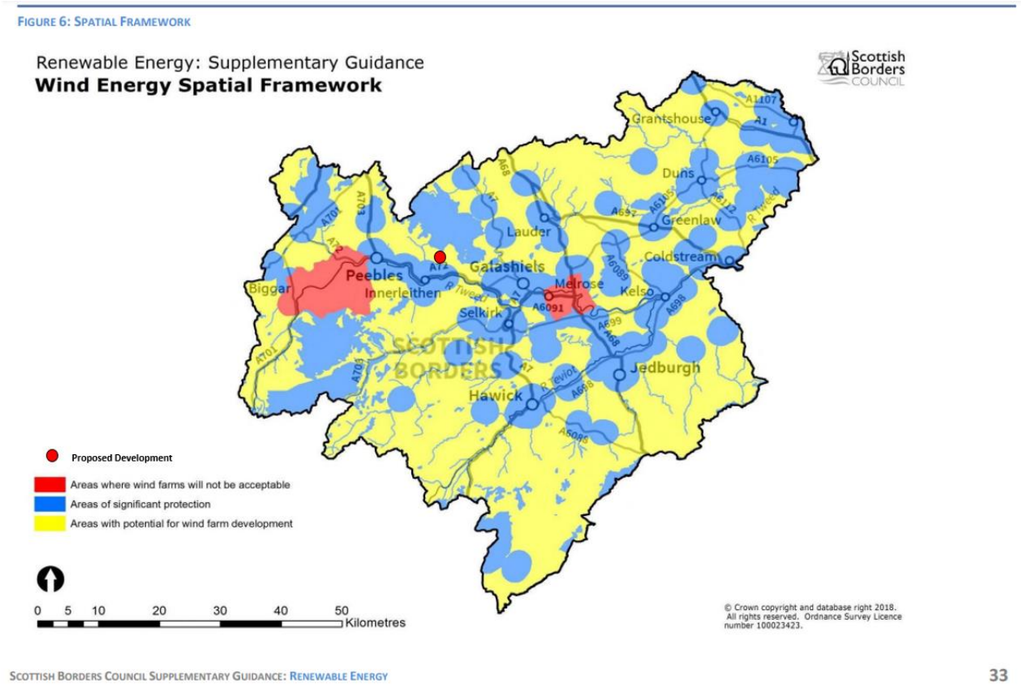

Image 6.1: SBC Wind Energy Spatial Framework

Ironside Farrar Study on Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact 2016

6.7.23 This study was originally published in 2013 and subsequently updated in 2016. Its aim is to provide additional consideration for larger typology wind turbines of over 120 m in tip height to consider the growth in large wind turbine applications which was not addressed in detail in the 2013 study. The report provides a detailed technical assessment and guidance on landscape, visual and cumulative development matters within the Scottish Borders.

6.7.24 Although this study is now dated, the findings of this study inform this assessment in relation to considering the sensitivity of the host LCT and providing baseline context.

6.7.25 The Proposed Development is located within the Lammermuir & Moorfoot Hills Regional Landscape Area and Landscape Character Area 1. Dissected Plateau Moorland, (ii) Moorfoot Plateau and described the capacity as follows:

*'**Development Capacity**: The LCA could accommodate further larger scale wind energy development. Turbines of 120m+ could be accommodated in smaller numbers where topography aids screening. Careful design consideration should be given to extensions/ repowering of existing developments. Turbine developments should not adversely encroach onto the visually prominent escarpment and skyline facing Edinburgh or the setting of the Tweed Valley to the south. There is capacity for smaller sized turbines in lower areas, best accommodated in association with farmsteads and dwellings and visually read as domestic/ farm scale generation.'*

Scottish Borders Council Supplementary Guidance: Local Landscape Designations, August 2012.

6.7.26 This SPG provides a review of the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) and provides supporting information in relation to the designations and 'Statements of Importance' for each SLA.

6.7.27 It takes the approach that "*A finding of 'high' sensitivity does not necessarily mean that there is no ability to accommodate development and 'low' sensitivity does not necessarily mean that there is definitely scope for particular development…*"

6.8 BASELINE CONDITIONS

Landscape Baseline

6.8.1 The assessment of landscape effects of the Proposed Development considers the effect on the landscape as a resource or a group of identifiable receptors. This is undertaken by the establishment of the landscape baseline defined in GLVIA3 as follows:

'For the landscape baseline the aim is to provide an understanding of the landscape in the area that may be affected – it's constituent elements, its character and the way this varies spatially, its geographic extent, its history (which may require its own specialist study), its condition, the way the landscape is experienced, and the value attached to it.' (Paragraph 3.15, GLVIA3)

6.8.2 For the purposes of this assessment, the landscape baseline will comprise following:

- Landscape fabric and character of the Proposed Development Area;
- Landscape Character Types (LCTs) (identified in NatureScot's Landscape Character Database (2019))[6]; and
- Designated landscapes, at international, national, and local level.

Landscape Character

6.8.3 Landscape character is defined as a distinct, recognisable, and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse. LCTs refer to distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature and can occur more than once in different parts of the country but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern.

6.8.4 Within the 45 km study area, a total of 59 LCTs were identified from NatureScot's Landscape Character Database (2019). This complex landscape character baseline is illustrated on Figure 6.6. The first stage initial assessment of potential effects on the landscape character baseline identified those LCTs with the potential to experience significant effects and therefore requiring detailed assessment (see Appendix 6.3: Landscape Character Review). This was based on a combination of factors including the distance between the Proposed Development and the LCT, the extent of theoretical visibility predicted, and sensitivity of the LCT.

6.8.5 Of these, 6 LCTs, were identified as landscape receptors with the potential to experience significant landscape effects due to the Proposed Development and are assessed in detail in this Chapter as follows:

- LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland;
- LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders;
- LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders;
- LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders;
- LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe; and
- LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland.

6.8.6 The following sources have been used to establish the landscape character baseline:

- Landscape Character Type 90: DISSECTED PLATEAU MOORLAND (NatureScot, 2019);[6]
- Landscape Character Type 91: PLATEAU GRASSLAND – BORDERS (NatureScot, 2019);[7]
- Landscape Character Type 93: SOUTHERN UPLANDS WITH SCATTERED FOREST – BORDERS (NatureScot, 2019);[8]
- Landscape Character Type 95: SOUTHERN UPLANDS – BORDERS (NatureScot, 2019);[9];
- Landscape Character Type 103: UNDULATING UPLAND FRINGE (NatureScot, 2019);[10]
- Landscape Character Type 116: UPLAND VALLEY WITH WOODLAND (NatureScot, 2019);[11]
- Landscape Character Assessment: Borders – Landscape Evolution and Influences (NatureScot, 2019);[12]
- The Borders landscape assessment (SNH, 1998);[13] and
- Wind Energy Consultancy, Update of Wind Energy Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact Study (Scottish Borders Council, 2016);[14]

[6] NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 90: DISSECTED PLATEAU MOORLAND [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20090%20-%20Dissected%20Plateau%20Moorland%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

[7] NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 91: PLATEAU GRASSLAND – BORDERS [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20091%20-%20Plateau%20Grassland%20-%20Borders%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

[8] NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 93: SOUTHERN UPLANDS WITH SCATTERED FOREST – BORDERS [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20093%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20with%20Scattered%20Forest%20-%20Borders%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

[9] NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 95: SOUTHERN UPLANDS – BORDERS [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20095%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20-%20Borders%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

[10] NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 103: UNDULATING UPLAND FRINGE [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20103%20-%20Undulating%20Upland%20Fringe%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

[11] NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 116: UPLAND VALLEY WITH WOODLAND [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20116%20-%20Upland%20Valley%20with%20Woodland%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

[12] NatureScot (2019) Landscape Character Assessment: Borders – Landscape Evolution [Online] file:///C:/Users/graemeql/Downloads/nature.scot-Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%20Borders%20-%20Landscape%20Evolution%20and%20Influences%20(1).pdf (Accessed November 2022)

[13] ASH Consulting Group (1998) Scottish Natural Heritage Review No. 112 The Borders landscape assessment. Scottish Natural Heritage. Battleby.

[14] Scottish Borders Council (2016) Wind Energy Consultancy Update of Wind Energy Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impact Study [Online] https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s14256/Item%20No.%2018%20-%20Part%201%20of%20IF%20REPORT%20Pages%201-42.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

Proposed Development Area

6.8.7 The Proposed Development is located approximately 4.1 km to the north-east of Innerleithen, 2.6 km to the east of the B709 road and 3.1 km north of the A72 road in Scottish Borders. The Proposed Development Area covers approximately 1,975 ha and is situated entirely within the Dissected Plateau Moorland (LCT 90) on the southern side of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of the LCT. Further details on location and design of the Proposed Development can be found in Chapter 3: Site Selection and Chapter 4: Project Description.

6.8.8 Topography within the Proposed Development Area ranges from 130 m near the A72 road to 657 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the highest point in the north east. The Proposed Development Area is located within an upland landscape context comprising a mosaic of blanket bog and heath on shallow soils covering hill tops, and acid grassland on slopes and within valleys that are heavily grazed by sheep. On the steepest slopes, heath and bracken are the prevalent vegetation. The Proposed Development Area is drained by a series of small flushes and small header streams that ultimately flow into the Gatehopeknowe Burn, which in turn flows into the River Tweed to the south.

6.8.9 Within the valley in which Gatehopeknowe Burn flows, small blocks of coniferous woodland have been planted and they increase in frequency and size towards the A72. There are also some small areas of semi-natural wet and mixed broadleaf woodland in proximity to where the burn joins the River Tweed. Additionally, patches of marshy grassland can be found along the banks of Gatehopeknowe Burn.

6.8.10 The upland landscape found within the Proposed Development Area is consistent with that of the surrounding area, which encompasses open moorland to the north and east and a mixture of open moorland and planted coniferous woodland to the south and west.

6.8.11 No operational wind farms are located within the Proposed Development Area.

6.8.12 Dark skies mapping for the Scottish Borders shows that the Proposed Development Area falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the southern part of the Proposed Development Area associated with a few properties and farm, as well as skyglow from the nearby Tweed Valley to the south such as Walkerburn.

Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.13 The following sets out landscape value of the Proposed Development Area:

Table 6.10: Landscape Value of LCT 90

Landscape Value	
Landscape Quality (Condition):	Quality varies within the Proposed Development Area, the predominant character is of an upland landscape of shallow soils which are heavily grazed by sheep creating a mosaic of heath and grassland vegetation which is not unique to the Proposed Development Area. This is interspersed with small geometric blocks of forestry which contrast with the sweeping rounded nature of landform. Within the numerous small-scale valleys are areas of higher quality landscape features including broad-leaf and riparian woodland and the remnants of dry-stone walls and sheepfolds. Overall, landscape quality for the Proposed Development Area is considered medium.
Scenic quality:	The Proposed Development Area forms part of the southern extent of the Moorfoot Hills and the northern backdrop of the Tweed Valley. Although it is not designated with any national designation, the southern part of the Proposed Development Area falls within the Tweed Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA), a local landscape designation. This covers the mid to low slopes that partly define the valley contributing to the overall scenic quality of the Tweed Valley. Overall scenic quality is considered to be high.
Landscape Value	
Rarity:	The Proposed Development Area is located entirely within the Moorfoot Plateau LCT which covers three large areas within the Scottish Borders comprising the Lammermuir Hills, Moorfoot Hills and Pentland Hills which is characteristic of Scottish Borders landscapes. No landscape features present within the Proposed Development Area are considered to be rare. Rarity is considered to be low.
Representativeness:	The Proposed Development Area is Identifiable and distinctive of a Scottish Borders landscape where sheep farming is the predominant land use closely followed by forestry. Proposed Development Area sits on the southern side of the Moorfoot Plateau unit which includes some of the highest parts of the Scottish Borders. Representativeness is considered to be high.
Conservation interests:	The Proposed Development Area includes three previously unrecorded cultural heritage assets including a possible peat cutting, a clearance cairn and a cairn, remains of an enclosure. No ecological designations cover the Proposed Development Area although a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) bound the proposed site to the north (see Figure 8.3). Conservation interest is considered to be medium.
Recreation value:	The Proposed Development Area has limited access and mainly forms part of a larger land holding managed for sheep farming. The northern boundary is adjacent to the summit of Windlestraw Law, the highest hill top within the Moorfoot hills and popular with walkers. The Proposed Development Area forms the foreground of views to the south from this summit. Recreational value is considered to be medium.
Perceptual aspects:	The Proposed Development Area forms a large-scale landscape with extensive views across the Moorfoot Hills to the north and the Ettrick Hills to the south. There is limited perception of the surrounding valleys from summits. At lower elevations, the large domed hills create a series of small-scale clefts and valleys which are enclosed with views limited by their winding nature. Both experiences create a sense of remoteness. Naturescot in their assessment of wildness in Scotland record higher levels of naturalness and remoteness on summits within the Proposed Development Area with qualities reduced within valleys on account of sheep farming and presence of access tracks. Light pollution is limited within the Proposed Development Area to a few sources associated with houses and the farm to the south, and skyglow from the Tweed Valley to the south. Perceptual aspects are considered to be medium.
Associations:	Features within the Proposed Development Area have long associations with activities associated with sheep farming and large estates and is considered to be of medium value.
Overall, landscape value of the Proposed Development Area is considered to be **Medium**.	

6.8.14 The following sets out landscape susceptibility of the Proposed Development Area.

Table 6.11: Landscape Susceptibility of LCT 90

Landscape Susceptibility	
Landscape scale and geographical extent:	The Proposed Development Area is large-scale with plateau tops that are open and expansive, covering a large geographical area. The scale and simple characteristics present lend themselves to accommodating the type of development proposed and aid reducing the vertical scale. This contrasts with the small-scale valleys that are present within the Proposed Development Area where

Landscape Susceptibility	
	tall structures can appear as dominating elements over small-scale landscape features. Overall, the Proposed Development Area predominantly covers a larger area of upland landscapes and is considered medium.
Landform:	The Proposed Development Area is between 130 and 657 m AOD in height featuring distinctive and defined individual hills, high plateau summits linked by a series of ridgelines which rise above the surrounding landscape, cut through by small-scale steep-sided valleys and clefts. This is consistent with the wider Moorfoot Plateau Unit of large, rounded hills cut through by a series of small to medium scale valleys. Susceptibility of landform is considered to be medium.
Skylines:	The Proposed Development Area forms part of the southern Moorfoot Hills which contributes to the northern skyline and setting of the Tweed Valley and currently has limited sources of lighting at night-time. Susceptibility is therefore considered to be high.
Landscape pattern and complexity:	Landcover within the Proposed Development Area predominantly comprises moorland interspersed with small coniferous blocks within valleys. The pattern of the upland landscape is wet and dry modified bog divided into large areas by post and wire fences, Within the small valleys, field patterns reduce in size and dictated by grazing pressure and includes small areas of coniferous forestry and woodland. Susceptibility is considered low.
Settlement and man-made influences:	Sheep farming and practices associated with that are the predominant man-made influences over the Proposed Development Area. Man-made features include small blocks of coniferous forestry, dry-stone walls, sheepfolds, access tracks, shepherd cottages and farm outbuildings mainly located in the southern part of the proposed site at lower elevations. Light pollution is limited to the southern part of the Proposed Development Area where settlement occurs, and sky glow from the nearby Tweed Valley. Susceptibility is considered to be low.
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and vistas:	Due to elevation, there is extensive intervisibility with the surrounding uplands within the Proposed Development Area which contrasts with the more contained valleys, which due to their meandering nature contained by steeply sided hills, limit visibility beyond the site boundary. Susceptibility is considered to be medium.
Perceptual aspects:	There are perceptions of remoteness from the summits within the Proposed Development Area which at night-time are less influenced by light pollution from nearby settled valleys. Human activity is is perceived in the lower parts of the site in the south where settlement occurs. Susceptibility is considered to be low.
Landscape susceptibility is **Medium** for the Proposed Development Area on account of the importance of the Proposed Development Area contributing to forming the distinctive northern side of the Tweed Valley combined with the characteristics of the proposed site in accommodating the type of development proposed.	

Overall Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.15 Overall sensitivity for the Proposed Development Area is considered **Medium** on account of the lack of any formal designation, combined with the quality of the proposed site and importance as a backdrop to the Tweed Valley.

LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland

6.8.16 Two further units of this LCT are located within the study area, the Lammermuir Plateau 18.3 km to the north east and the Pentland Hills 25.1 km to the north west. Due to distance and limited theoretical visibility predicted by the ZTV, the effects on these two units have not been considered further in this LVIA as it is not judged that they would receive a significant effect. Therefore, this assessment concentrates on potential effects on the area of the LCT within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit only.

6.8.17 The Moorfoot Plateau Unit covers approximately 205.5 km², forming a large upland area extending between the Moorfoot Scarp in the north, the Gala Water in the east, the Tweed Valley in the south, and the Eddleston Water in the west. The eastern side comprises rounded domed hills with plateau summits that are predominantly moorland dissected by small-scale valleys of semi to rough grazing and small copses of woodland. This contrasts with the western side which comprises large-scale forestry covering Glentress and Leithenwater.

6.8.18 Two operational wind farms are located within this LCT: Bowbeat Wind Farm 8.0 km to the north west of the Proposed Development, and Carcant, 9.9 km to the north on the northern periphery of the LCT. Due to its higher elevation, Intervisibility of other wind farms in the surrounding area can also be experienced from the LCT, mainly occurring from the periphery and from elevated areas within the interior of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit, the most noticeable being Longpark 2.8 km and Toddleburn 4.0 km to the east of the unit.

6.8.19 Dark skies mapping for the Scottish Borders[15] shows that the Moorfoots Plateau Unit of the LCT falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the periphery of the unit associated with nearby settlements and roads located to the east and the Tweed Valley to the south.

Key Characteristics

6.8.20 NatureScot identify the key characteristics as follows[16]:

- *'Plateau landform consisting of a series of level-topped hills and ridges.*
- *Strong topographic identity and overall grandeur of scale.*
- *Individual hill masses separated by steep sided valley features of differing scales.*
- *Semi-natural peatland, heather moorland, and grassland communities dominant, with a high degree of perceived naturalness of vegetation cover.*
- *Very low settlement density with isolated, dispersed pattern.*
- *Scattered prehistoric settlement and burial mounds above water courses.*
- *Sense of wildness created by wide horizons and long distance, unobstructed views.'*

Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.21 The following sets out landscape value of LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland for the Moorfoot Plateau Unit within the wider landscape:

Table 6.12: Landscape Value of LCT 90

Landscape Value	
Landscape Quality (Condition):	Within the wider area, the Moorfoot Hills to the north of the Proposed Development Area is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) for protected upland habitats including blanket bog, dry heath, and birch woodland. Elsewhere, the landscape is influenced by similar land practices to the Proposed Development Area through muirburn, sheep grazing and forestry with rough to semi-improved pasture and

[15] Land Use Consultants (2016) England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies Interactive Map [Online] https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps/ (Accessed November 2022)

[16] NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 90: DISSECTED PLATEAU MOORLAND [Online] https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20090%20-%20Dissected%20Plateau%20Moorland%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf (Accessed November 2022)

Landscape Value	
	forestry on lower lying slopes and within valleys. This results in areas of higher quality around watercourses and on boggy land where land management practices have less influence. The value of landscape quality is considered to be medium.
Scenic quality:	The southern extent of the LCT is covered by the Tweed Valley SLA with the remaining area undesignated. Despite the lack of any formal landscape designation, the Moorfoot Plateau Unit is scenically attractive providing an important backdrop to surrounding valleys. Value of scenic quality is considered to be high.
Rarity:	The LCT covers three large geographical areas within the Scottish Borders comprising the Lammermuir Hills, Moorfoot Hills and Pentland Hills and is identifiable as a Scottish Borders landscape. Value of rarity is considered to be low.
Representativeness:	The LCT within the Moorfoot Plateau unit includes some of the highest parts of the Scottish Borders forming an important contrast to the surrounding valleys and value is considered to be high.
Conservation interests:	Within the wider Moorfoot Plateau unit, a large area to the north of the Proposed Development Area is covered by a SAC and SSSI and there are numerous cultural heritage assets throughout resulting in a high value.
Recreation value:	Includes several walking routes and summits that are popular with walkers and cyclists, as well as used for shooting. Recreational value is considered high.
Perceptual aspects:	Large-scale landscape which contrasts with the more enclosed gullies and small-scale valleys found between hills. There is a general perception of remoteness on summits and within the more isolated valleys resulting in a medium value.
Associations:	Features within the LCT have long associations with literature and activities associated with sheep farming and large estates and is medium in value.
Landscape value is **High** for the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of the LCT due to its scenic quality as well as being designated at a local level.	

6.8.22 The following sets out landscape susceptibility of LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit.

Table 6.13: Landscape Susceptibility of LCT 90

Landscape Susceptibility	
Landscape scale and geographical extent:	The LCT covers a large geographical area and is large-scale. The scale and simple characteristics present lend themselves to accommodating the type of development proposed and aid reducing the vertical scale. There are some parts of the LCT which have contrasting features such as the small-scale valleys that intersect where there is the potential for tall structures appearing as dominating elements over small-scale landscape features. Susceptibility is considered medium.
Landform:	The LCT generally rises between 300 and 500 m with the summit of Windlestraw Law 659 m forming the highest point of the Moorfoot Hills. Comprising rounded hills with high plateau summits which rise above the surrounding landscape and cut through by a series of small-scale steep-sided valleys and clefts, susceptibility is considered to be medium.

Landscape Susceptibility	
Skylines:	The LCT forms an important backdrop to surrounding valleys such as the northern skyline and setting of the Tweed Valley. Susceptibility is considered high.
Landscape pattern and complexity:	Landcover within the LCT predominantly comprises moorland interspersed with large coniferous blocks of forestry on valley sides. The pattern of the upland landscape is related to the vegetation cover which includes wet and dry modified bog divided into large areas by post and wire fences, Within the small valleys, field patterns reduce in size and dictated by grazing pressure and includes small areas of coniferous forestry and woodland. Susceptibility is considered low.
Settlement and man-made influences:	Within the wider Moorfoot Plateau Unit, estate management, sheep farming, and forestry form the main influences on the landscape. Wind farms are the most prominent features located within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit on the northern periphery, and in neighbouring LCTs.
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and vistas:	Due to elevation, there is extensive intervisibility with the surrounding lowland landscapes and valleys, especially from elevated areas and the periphery, less so from interior valleys of the Proposed Development Area, and wider Moorfoot Plateau Unit.
Perceptual aspects:	Open and large-scale, the Proposed Development Area and Moorfoot Plateau Unit has some capability in accommodating the type of development proposed.
Landscape susceptibility is **High** for the Proposed Development Area and Moorfoot Plateau Unit of the LCT due to its location on the southern extent of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit which defines the northern side of the Tweed Valley.	

Overall Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.23 Overall sensitivity for the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of the Dissected Plateau Moorland LCT is **High**. This is due to the Proposed Development Area forming part of the southern extent of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit which contributes to the setting of the Tweed Valley to the south of the LCT.

6.8.24 Several field visits to the Proposed Development Area and surrounding area as well as a review of the Ecology, Hydrology and Cultural Heritage chapters verified the key characteristics of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of the LCT. This was undertaken between March 2019 and November 2022.

LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders

6.8.25 This LCT occurs as a single unit within the Moorfoot and Lammermuir Plateau and is bordered by the Gala and Leader valleys 8.6 km to the east of the Proposed Development. It is differentiated from LCT 90 by both its lower elevation, and the predominant grassland vegetation.

6.8.26 Several operational wind farms are located within this LCT, these include Toddleburn (12.0 km), Dun Law I & II (15.1 km), and Pogbie I & III (18.0 km) to the north east, and Longpark (9.4 km) to the east of the Proposed Development.

6.8.27 Dark-skies mapping shows that the LCT falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to settlement and vehicles travelling within the valleys directly to the east and west. In higher areas where the surrounding valleys are screened by foreground landform, the direct source of artificial lighting is not apparent coming instead from sky glow experienced around the periphery of the unit associated with nearby settlements and roads in the Tweed Valley to the south.

Key Characteristics

6.8.28 NatureScot identify the key characteristics as follows[17]:

- *'Large scale, rolling plateau topography with gentle slopes and smooth relief.*
- *Vegetation cover dominated by coarse grassland with localised patches of heather moorland, rush pasture and scattered small coniferous plantations and shelterbelts.*
- *Low density settlement with widely dispersed farm buildings.*
- *Wind farm development in the northern and central parts of the Landscape Character Type.*
- *Remote, isolated quality.*
- *Open, panoramic views.'*

Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.29 The following sets out landscape value of LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders:

Table 6.14: Landscape Value of LCT 91

Landscape Value	
Landscape Quality (Condition):	Managed for sheep grazing and shooting reducing the diversity of vegetation, overgrazing leads to predominantly grassland species with some areas of heather. Value of quality is considered medium.
Scenic quality:	The eastern side is partially covered by the Lammermuir Hills SLA. Forms an important backdrop to the valleys containing the Leader Water to the east, and the Gala Water to the west. Value of scenic quality is considered overall medium.
Rarity:	Occurs in four other locations to the south within the Scottish Borders and value is low.
Representativeness:	Forms a good example of a characteristically upland farmed Scottish Borders landscape and value is medium.
Conservation interests:	There are several cultural heritage assets within the LCT including SAM north and west of Oxton and on Lauder Common as well as Airhouse Wood SSSI west of Oxton, value is considered to be high.
Recreation value:	Limited, mainly associated with local transport routes which cross the LCT such as the B6368 road. Includes some popular local walks, value is medium.
Perceptual aspects:	Large-scale landscape which has the perception of remoteness due to the lack of field boundaries and settlement, value is medium..
Associations:	Features within the LCT have long associations with literature and activities associated with sheep farming and large estates and has a medium value..
Overall **Medium** due to its agricultural land use, large-scale and remote perception with areas of **High** value where the LCT is covered by the Lammermuir Hills SLA,	

6.8.30 The following sets out landscape susceptibility of LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders

Table 6.15: Landscape Susceptibility of LCT 91

Landscape Susceptibility	
Landscape scale and geographical extent:	Medium-scale landscape covering a large area between the Gala and Leader Waters extending between Fala in the north, and Buckholm in the south.
Landform:	Ranges between 350 and 400 m AOD featuring distinctive smooth, rolling, domed hills with convex slopes. Subtle variations in relief as a result of small-scale gullies.
Skylines:	Expansive in elevated locations, provides important skylines to the surrounding valleys to the east and west.
Landscape pattern and complexity:	Land use is predominantly rough grazing by sheep and cattle covering large areas defined by drystone dykes and post and wire fences. Semi-improved land on lower slopes with some small, scattered plantations and shelterbelts, and a few larger areas of forestry, but tree cover is generally scarce
Settlement and man-made influences:	Limited presence of settlement mainly occurring on the lower slopes. Heavily influenced by land management practices associated with agriculture. Several wind farms located within the LCT include the large cluster of Keith Hill, Pogbie, Dun Law and Toddleburn in the north, and Longpark in the south.
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and vistas:	Views from hill tops are open and exposed in nature, with panoramic views of adjacent character types possible ranging between uplands and lower lying valleys.
Perceptual aspects:	Open and medium scale, this LCT has some capability to accommodate the type of development proposed.
Landscape susceptibility is **Medium** due to a combination of its landform and contribution to the setting of surrounding valleys combined with its modification for agricultural and lesser extent forestry land uses.	

Overall Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.31 Overall sensitivity for LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders is **Medium** due to its lack of national or local designation combined with its land use for agriculture where the landscape has been heavily modified over time.

LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders

6.8.32 This LCT comprises three units: east of the Broad Law group (Elibank, Traquir and Ettrick Forest areas), the Cauldcleuch Head Hill group, and near to Dun Knowe. Of these, the area east of Broad Law group is the nearest to the Proposed Development at 3.9 km and has been included in this assessment. The remaining two units have not been included as it is not considered they would receive a significant effect due to distance from the Proposed Development being 19 – 34 km.

6.8.33 No operational wind farms are located within this LCT although it is influenced by wind farms in neighbouring LCTs, the most notable being Longpark Wind Farm to the east.

6.8.34 Dark-skies mapping shows that the Moorfoots unit of the LCT falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the periphery of the unit associated with nearby settlements and roads located in the Tweed Valley to the south.

Key Characteristics

6.8.35 NatureScot identify the key characteristics as follows[18]:

- *'Large-scale rolling landform with higher dome or cone-shaped summits.*
- *Significant areas of peatland and heather moorland.*
- *Mosaic of grassland, bracken and rushes on lower ground.*

[17] SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, *Landscape Character Type 91: PLATEAU GRASSLAND - BORDERS* (NatureScot, 2019)

[18] SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 93: SOUTHERN UPLANDS WITH SCATTERED FOREST - BORDERS (NatureScot, 2019)

- *Locally-prominent scattered large areas of forestry.*
- *Degree of remoteness, wild character and grandeur of scale unique within the region.'*

Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.36 The following sets out landscape value of LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders:

Table 6.16: Landscape Value of LCT 93

Landscape Value	
Landscape Quality (Condition):	Landscape quality is typical of the Scottish uplands being dominated by sheep grazing, manged for grouse shooting and forestry on lower slopes.
Scenic quality:	Largely undeveloped and is scenically attractive owing to its upland landscape of rolling hills and valleys. This LCT is partially covered by the Tweed Valley, Tweedsmuir Uplands, Tweed, Yarrow, and Ettrick Confluences SLAs.
Rarity:	Forms a large geographic area within the Scottish Borders.
Representativeness:	Comprises a series of glacially sculpted landforms that are locally distinctive, sometimes less obvious due to forestry.
Conservation interests:	Includes evidence of early settlement, drove roads and cultural heritage assets, mainly occurring around the periphery close to settlements and within small-scale valleys. Includes two SSSIs covering Plora Wood and Willaimhope.
Recreation value:	Popular recreationally with walkers and cyclists, includes sections of the Southern Upland Way.
Perceptual aspects:	Forms a dramatic large-scale landscape which contrasts between open and exposed hills and enclosed valleys and has characteristics that have the potential to accommodate the type of development proposed.
Associations:	Includes associations with nearby Traquair House to the north.
Landscape value is **High** due to being recognised for its scenic quality through local designation as SLAs.	

6.8.37 The following sets out landscape susceptibility of LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders

Table 6.17: Landscape Susceptibility of LCT 93

Landscape Susceptibility	
Landscape scale and geographical extent:	Large-scale covering a large part of the Scottish Borders.
Landform:	Landform is differentiated from the other Southern Upland types by more rolling hills, ranging at times to higher elevations between 200 to 600 m. Typically domed or conical in nature which are divided by deep, steep-sided valleys, gullies, and clefts.
Skylines:	Forms important skylines experienced from elevated areas and from lower lying valleys.
Landscape pattern and complexity:	Landcover is predominantly heather and grassland, interspersed with areas of coniferous forestry. Broadleaf tree cover is limited to within valleys or clefts. Large coniferous plantations form a key feature which contrast forming geometric patterns which contrast with the more irregular pattern of mix species woodland.
Settlement and man-made influences:	Land use has the main influence on the LCT comprising a mixture of grazing and grouse moorland often divided by drystone dykes and include sheep stells. Where heather moorland management occurs, there is an irregular patchwork of muirburn. Settlement and roads are limited to the periphery with a few isolated properties and hamlets within the LCT.
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and vistas:	Views from higher ground are extensive allowing visibility over adjoining landscape types from the periphery.
Perceptual aspects:	Open and large-scale, this LCT has some capability in accommodating the type of development proposed.
Landscape susceptibility is **Medium** due to the open and large-scale nature of the LCT combined with forestry which could accommodate the type of development proposed.	

Overall Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.38 Overall sensitivity for LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders is **High** due to the LCT being designated at a local level for its scenic quality although it is considered that the characteristics of the LCT could accommodate the type of development proposed.

LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders

6.8.39 This LCT occurs in one large unit, including the Broad Law group of hills; it is the highest and most remote area of the Southern Uplands within the Scottish Borders.

6.8.40 One operational wind farm is located within this LCT, Glenkerrie 29.1 km to the south west of the Proposed Development. Due to the elevation of the landform within this LCT, it is influenced by operational wind farms in the surrounding area, this occurs mainly to the west on the outer periphery of the 45 km study area where there are several large wind farms located.

6.8.41 Dark-skies mapping shows that this LCT falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the periphery of the LCT associated with nearby settlements and roads located in nearby valleys.

Key Characteristics

6.8.42 NatureScot identify the key characteristics as follows[19]:

- *'Extensive, large scale rolling upland landscape with dome or cone-shaped summits and ridges.*

[19] SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 95: SOUTHERN UPLANDS - BORDERS (NatureScot, 2019)

- *Glacial carved and smoothed landforms, including u-shaped valleys, hanging valleys and corries.*
- *Steep-sided valleys with numerous burns*
- *Open, exposed character.*
- *Significant areas of peatland and heather moorland on higher slopes.*
- *Transition to rough grazing on lower slopes, with some sizeable areas of conifer woodland at base of main glens.*
- *Upland areas largely undeveloped, except for occasional upland farms.*
- *Reservoirs and roads in main glens.*
- *High degree of remoteness, wild character and grandeur of scale within the region.*
- *Wide ranging panoramic views from summits.'*

Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.43 The following sets out landscape value of LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders:

Table 6.18: Landscape Value of LCT 95

Landscape Value	
Landscape Quality (Condition):	Predominantly managed for sheep farming and grouse shooting resulting in large areas of acidic grassland and heather with occasional forest plantations. Higher quality features tend to be confined to a long watercourses or boggy land.
Scenic quality:	Largely undeveloped and is scenically attractive as demonstrated by partially being designated as the Upper Tweeddale NSA with the remaining area being designated locally as the Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA.
Rarity:	Occurs in many locations throughout Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders.
Representativeness:	Provides a good representation of the different characteristics of this LCT.
Conservation interests:	The Tweedsmuir Hills are designated as a SSSI and there are some cultural heritage assets found around the periphery associated with past settlements, cairns and enclosures.
Recreation value:	Popular with walkers and cyclists and includes sections of the Southern Upland Way.
Perceptual aspects:	Large-scale open landscape with a degree of tranquillity and remoteness away from the more settled glens.
Associations:	Has many associations culturally and in literature.
Landscape value is **High** due to partially being covered by the Tweeddale NSA and recognised at a local level for its scenic quality.	

6.8.44 The following sets out landscape susceptibility of LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders

Table 6.19: Landscape Susceptibility of LCT 95

Landscape Susceptibility	
Landscape scale and geographical extent:	This is a dramatic large-scale landscape, with open, exposed hill tops, and valleys which are frequently enclosed from the surrounding landscape.
Landform:	The hills range between 500 and 850 metres in height, and are predominantly smooth, with occasional clefts or gullies. The unit is characterised by large domed and slightly conical shaped hills with steep sides, clefts and glens.
Skylines:	Forms a distinctive skyline both from lower lying areas and from upland areas.
Landscape pattern and complexity:	Grazing areas on lower slopes are divided by drystone dykes forming a small-scale pattern of fields, as elevation increases the landscape comprises large areas of grass and heather interspersed with the occasional forestry plantation.
Settlement and man-made influences:	Both settlement and the road network are limited to much of the LCT being inaccessible. Man-made influences generally confined to landscape management practices for sheep grazing and grouse shooting.
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and vistas:	Views from higher ground are extensive allowing visibility over adjoining landscape types from the periphery.
Perceptual aspects:	Open and large-scale, this LCT has some capability in accommodating the type of development proposed.
Landscape susceptibility is **Medium** due to the open and large-scale nature of the LCT combined with forestry which could accommodate the type of development proposed.	

Overall Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.45 Sensitivity for LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders is **High** as a result the LCT being partially covered by the Upper Tweeddale NSA and recognised for its scenic quality at a local level.

LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe

6.8.46 This LCT comprises two units, covering east and west Gala between 4.9 – 20.0 km to the south east. The two units each have their own distinctive features East Gala is moderately undulating, with a combination of gentle and steep slopes, and locally prominent medium-sized conifer plantations and overhead lines. The West Gala Unit is more undulating with steeper slopes and comprises unimproved rough grassland on upper slopes and summits.

6.8.47 No operational wind farms are located within this LCT although it is influenced by wind farms in neighbouring LCTs, the most notable being Longpark Wind Farm to the west of the East Gala Unit, and north of the West Gala Unit.

6.8.48 Dark-skies mapping shows that this LCT falls within the upper end of the darkest categories of night-time lighting. However, light pollution is experienced from nearby settlements including Lauder, Galashiels, and Melrose as well as from vehicles on the surrounding roads.

Key Characteristics

6.8.49 NatureScot identify the key characteristics as follows[20]:

- *'Large scale, moderately to steeply sloping and undulating landform incised in places by steep gullies and narrow valleys.*
- *Unity of land cover characterised by improved pastures, with prominent field pattern delineated by a well maintained network of drystone dykes, and scattered small to medium sized coniferous plantations.*
- *Medium density settlement with small villages and farmsteads sited typically in sheltered valleys and on lower slopes.*
- *A simple, uniform landscape of smooth flowing curves, open in character with distant views over adjoining valley types and the Lammermuir and Moorfoot hills.*
- *Boundaries clearly defined by major river valleys.'*

Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.50 The following sets out landscape value of LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe:

Table 6.20: Landscape Value of LCT 103

Landscape Value	
Landscape Quality (Condition):	This LCT forms a transitional landscape where the upland landscape meets the lower lying settled valleys and is predominantly managed for agriculture in the form of sheep grazing resulting in overgrazing with the more elevated areas being a combination of grouse and sheep grazing.
Scenic quality:	The southern periphery of the East Gala Unit falls within the Eildon & Leaderfoot NSA and the western side of the West Gala Unit within the Tweed, Ettrick, and Yarrow Confluences SLA. The remaining areas are undesignated.
Rarity:	Located in two distinctive areas within the Scottish Borders.
Representativeness:	Is noted in the NatureScot citation as being characteristic of the neighbourhood of Galashiels in the Scottish Borders.
Conservation interests:	Includes several SSSIs such as Colmsliehill, Avenel Hill Gorge and Threepwood SAC .
Recreation value:	Includes a section of the SUW between Lauder and Melrose which is popular with walkers.
Perceptual aspects:	Open and exposed landscape predominantly farmed, situated on the edge of the busier surrounding valleys providing a contrast between the lower lying settled areas.
Associations:	Has many associations culturally and in literature.
Landscape value is **High** due to being covered by the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA and the Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA.	

6.8.51 The following sets out landscape susceptibility of LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe:

Table 6.21: Landscape Susceptibility of LCT 103

Landscape Susceptibility	
Landscape scale and geographical extent:	The landscape is medium in scale with the two units covering a large and medium size areas to the north and west of Melrose.
Landform:	Topography ranges between 200 to 450 m comprising large scale convex slopes with moderate to steep slopes and includes steep sided v-shaped gullies and minor valleys. Landform is predominantly smooth with a few minor outcrops and scree slopes on steeper valley sides.
Skylines:	Provides an important backdrop to surrounding lowland landscapes.
Landscape pattern and complexity:	Predominantly consists of rolling pasture divided by drystone dykes and post and wire fences interspersed with scattered small to medium scale plantations and shelterbelts.
Settlement and man-made influences:	Settlement occurs mostly within sheltered valleys and on lower hill slopes. A network of minor roads and tracks follow the valleys and lower slopes. Landcover is predominantly improved permanent pasture in large fields divided by prominent drystone dykes. Hill tops and upper slopes are generally unimproved merging with rough grass and heather moorland as elevation increases. Woodland is interspersed throughout and consists of small to medium sized coniferous forests and shelterbelts.
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and vistas:	This landscape type is predominantly open and exposed with distant views over the surrounding valleys.
Perceptual aspects:	Open and medium scale with smaller small-scale valleys, this LCT has some capability in accommodating the type of development proposed.
Landscape susceptibility is **Medium** due to displaying some characteristics that could accommodate the tyre of development proposed although it is recognised that the LCT is close to smaller scale settled landscapes.	

Overall Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.52 Overall sensitivity for LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe ranges between **High** for the limited parts of the LCT that are designated at a national and local level, and overall **Medium** elsewhere in undesignated areas where it is considered that the landscape has characteristics that could accommodate the type of development proposed.

[20] SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 103: UNDULATING UPLAND FRINGE (NatureScot, 2019).

LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland

6.8.53 This LCT is characteristic of two areas located within the Scottish Borders covering the Middle Tweed and the Lower Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys located 1.8 km to the south of the Proposed Development.

6.8.54 No operational wind farms are located within this LCT and there is limited intervisibility of operational developments due to their location within the surrounding uplands combined with the wooded nature and forested valley sides.,

6.8.55 Dark-skies mapping shows that this LCT falls within the middle range of the dark sky categories of night-time lighting. This is due to both units being well settled including some larger concentrations of settlement such as Innerleithen, Peebles, individual properties as well as a series of major roads such as the A72 and connecting minor roads to the north and south of the River Tweed. This results on several sources of artificial lighting backdropped by the darker uplands surrounding the valley.

Key Characteristics

6.8.56 NatureScot identify the key characteristics as follows[21]:

- *'Meandering river valley, strongly enclosed by uplands.*
- *Flat valley floor, broad and open in places, narrow and more intimate in others.*
- *Prominent terraces (haughlands) caused by fluvial and glacial action.*
- *Strong influence of woodland, with extensive coniferous forest prominent on valley sides, and mature hedgerow tree lines, broadleaf, and mixed policy woodlands on valley floor.*
- *Traditional dwellings, farmsteads and hamlets clustered at the foot of valley side slopes.*
- *Mill towns prominent on valley floor and sides.*
- *Tower houses and mansions common along river banks.*
- *Prehistoric hillforts common on gently rounded hill tops.*
- *Designed policies and parklands significantly contribute to woodland cover and character.'*

Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.57 The following sets out landscape value of LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland:

Table 6.22: Landscape Value of LCT 116

Landscape Value	
Landscape Quality (Condition):	Landscape quality varies within the LCT which is heavily managed for forestry and agriculture as well as being settled. Despite this, there are some areas of higher quality such as around Traquair and woodland is a key characteristic throughout the valley.
Scenic quality:	The western extent of the LCT is located within the Upper Tweeddale NSA and the remaining area within the Tweed Valley and Tweed, Ettrick & Yarrow Confluences SLA.
Rarity:	Located in two locations within the Scottish Borders.
Representativeness:	Characteristic of a lowland valley landscape found within the Scottish Borders.
Conservation interests:	Rich in cultural heritage assets such as early settlements, enclosures, castles, and cairns located throughout, and gardens and designed landscapes such as Traquair House and its associated policies.
Recreation value:	Popular with a range of recreational visitors including walking, cycling, fishing and is an important gateway to the surrounding uplands, a section of the SUW also passes through the LCT.
Perceptual aspects:	There is a sense of enclosure from a combination of steep valley sides, woodland, and the meandering nature of the landscape.
Associations:	Has many associations culturally and in literature associated with the many settlements located throughout the valley and garden and designed landscapes such as Traquair House.
Landscape value is **High** and includes parts of the Upper Tweeddale NSA and Traquir House GDL and is overall recognised at a local level for its scenic quality.	

6.8.58 The following sets out landscape susceptibility of LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland:

Table 6.23: Landscape Susceptibility of LCT 116

Landscape Susceptibility	
Landscape scale and geographical extent:	Covers a large geographic area between the uplands to the north and south and is medium to small-scale.
Landform:	Valley sides are smooth and moderately to steeply sloping and include occasional patches of scree. This contrasts with a flat valley floor that is open in character and varies in width throughout between being very narrow north of Peel, to the broader floodplain between Innerleithen and Peebles.
Skylines:	Generally flat, the valley sides provide an important backdrop and setting to the valley and settlements.
Landscape pattern and complexity:	The pattern of landcover is complex and varied supporting a patchwork of pastures and arable fields, increasing in size in the broader, more open stretches. Field boundaries are predominantly hedgerows with frequent mature trees and shelterbelts and small copses. Coniferous forests are prominent on the valley with a variety of species and tributaries on the valley sides can be traced by riparian woodland.
Settlement and man-made influences:	Settlement is found throughout at key strategic points along the River Tweed and include Peebles and Innerleithen. The area is rich in historical importance and includes many cultural heritage assets which contribute to character.

[21] *SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 116: UPLAND VALLEY WITH WOODLAND* (NatureScot, 2019

Landscape Susceptibility	
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and vistas:	Mainly screened by the steep valley sides although it is possible to gain views of neighbouring summits where the landscape is more open.
Perceptual aspects:	Has limited potential to accommodate the type of development proposed.
Landscape susceptibility is **High** due to the small-scale characteristics of the LCT.	

Overall Landscape Sensitivity

6.8.59 Sensitivity for LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland is **High** and includes the Upper Tweeddale NSA, Traquair House GDL, and is recognised at a local level for its scenic quality and small-scale characteristics.

Protected & Designated Landscapes

6.8.60 The criteria used to define designated landscapes varies greatly and these are generally defined within landscape planning policy and documentation. The level of designation also varies between internationally acclaimed landscapes, nationally recognised landscapes, and local landscape designations, identified by each Local Planning Authority. One World Heritage Site (WHS) is located 31.9 km to the north west of the Proposed Development and has not been considered due to distance.

6.8.61 The national and local landscape designations present within the 45 km study area are identified on Figure 6.7: Protected & Designated Landscapes with ZTV (Volume 3b).

6.8.62 The first stage initial assessment was undertaken to identify those designated landscapes with the potential to experience significant effects and therefore requiring detailed assessment in the LVIA (see Appendix 6.4: Protected & Designated Landscapes Review, Volume 4). This was based on a review of the theoretical visibility predicted in each designation and distance from the Proposed Development.

6.8.63 A total of 2 National Scenic Areas (NSA), 78 Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) and 47 local designations (Areas of Great Landscape Value, Special Landscape Areas and Regional Scenic Areas) were identified within the study area. Of these, the following have been taken forward to the detailed assessment:

- Upper Tweeddale NSA;
- Traquair House GDL;
- Tweed, Ettrick, and Yarrow Confluences SLA;
- Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA; and
- Tweed Valley SLA.

6.8.64 Additionally, The Talla – Hart Fell WLA is located approximately 22.3 km to the south west of the Proposed Development. WLAs are not a statutory designation but are identified as a nationally important asset in National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) and as such are afforded "*areas of significant protection*" status within Table 1 (Page 39) of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). SPP states that in the context of any proposed development a WLA *"Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation."*

6.8.65 NatureScot's revised guidance[22]: states that *'This guidance should only be applied to proposals whose nature, siting, scale or design are likely to result in a significant effect on the qualities of a WLA. Given this, assessments are more likely for proposals within a WLA, and are less-likely for proposals outwith the WLA.'*

6.8.66 Analysis of the ZTV (see Figure 6.7: Protected & Designated Landscapes with ZTV) shows that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development within the Talla – Hart Fells WLA would be very limited on account of landform screening from the intervening landscape. For this reason, combined with the distance involved, no Wild Land Assessment has been undertaken of the Talla – Hart Fells WLA as it is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would result in a significant effect to the wild land attributes of the WLA. This was agreed through consultation with SBC and confirmed with NatureScot.

6.8.67 The following sources have been used to identify protected and designated landscapes in the 45 km study area:

- The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas (SNH, 2010);[23]
- Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (Historic Environment Scotland);[24]
- Wild Land Area Descriptions and Maps (SNH, 2014);[25] and
- Local Landscape Designations (Scottish Borders Council, 2012).[26]

6.8.68 Descriptions of the location, special qualities, and landscape sensitivity for each of the landscape designations are set in the following paragraphs.

Upper Tweeddale NSA

6.8.69 This NSA covers the upper course of the River Tweed and includes the upland area that flanks the confluences of the Holm, Lyne and Manor Waters, located 11.9 km to the south west of the Proposed Development.

6.8.70 No operational wind farms are located within the NSA although wind farms are visible from the more elevated parts looking beyond the NSA boundary.

6.8.71 Dark-skies mapping shows that the NSA falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the periphery of the NSA associated with nearby settlements such as Peebles and the A72 road to the north.

Special Qualities

6.8.72 NatureScot identify the special qualities of the Upper Tweeddale NSA as follows:

- *'Diverse scenery of great charm and soft beauty.*
- *The historical continuity of settlement.*
- *Green, intimate pastoral valleys.*
- *Expansive, open hills with panoramic views.*
- *The variety of woodlands and trees.*
- *The large, geometric fields.*
- *The distinctive vernacular buildings.*

[22] NatureScot (2020) Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas, Technical Guidance.

[23] Scottish Natural Heritage (2010) Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report 374: The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas. Scottish Natural Heritage. Battleby.

[24] Historic Environment Scotland (2021) Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. [Online] https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/gardens-and-designed-landscapes/what-is-the-inventory-of-gardens-and-designed-landscapes/ (Accessed November 2022)

[25] Scottish Natural Heritage (2014) Wild Land Areas map and descriptions. [Online] https://www.nature.scot/doc/wild-land-areas-map-and-descriptions-2014 (Accessed November 2022)

[26] Scottish Borders Council (2012) Planning Guidance – Local Landscape Designations. [Online] https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory_record/20043/local_landscape_designations/category/28/approved_planning_guidance (Accessed November 2022)

- *Tranquil riverine landscapes.'*

Sensitivity

6.8.73 The NSA is considered to have a **High** landscape value and susceptibility to change on account of being designated at a national level. Overall sensitivity to change is **High**.

Traquair House GDL

6.8.74 Located 1.5 km to the south of Innerleithen and 8.8 km to the south west of the Proposed Development, this GDL forms a relatively small, designed landscape set within the upland valley landscape and is described as follows by Historic Environment Scotland (HES):

'Enclosed by the strong relief of steep hill-sides, the policies themselves occupy flat ground, immediately to the south of the Tweed. Traquair House itself stands at the centre of the designed landscape, a scenically prominent structure in a park and woodland setting, and most famously appreciated from along the length of a formal, tree-lined avenue. In local landscape views, the upland terrain beyond forms a striking and contrasting backdrop for the house, trees, gardens and avenue. The Quair Water, a Special Area of Conservation, flows through the designed landscape to meet the Tweed. The elongated Well Pool immediately to the north west of Traquair House, meanwhile, is believed to reflect the former course of the Tweed before it was re-routed and straightened in the 17th century (Hardy 1881: 485; Strang 1994: 226). Encompassing a total of 68ha (168ac), the designed landscape is bounded by the Tweed to the north, and local roads to the east and west. The small village of Traquair lies immediately to the south.'

6.8.75 Dark-skies mapping shows that the GDL falls within the upper levels of dark sky categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the periphery of the GDL associated with direct intervisibility of nearby Innerleithen and vehicles on the minor road network in the vicinity of the policies, as well as skyglow.

Sensitivity

6.8.76 The GDL is recognised for its Historical, Horticultural, Architectural and Nature Conservation interest as Outstanding, and High for its Scenic interest in the HES citation. Landscape value and susceptibility are considered to be **High** resulting in an overall **High** sensitivity due to the GDL's inclusion in the national inventory.

Scottish Borders Special Landscape Areas

6.8.77 Three local designations recognised for their scenic quality by SBC have been identified for assessment in Appendix 6.4: Protected & Designated Landscapes Review. Due to their local importance as recognised in planning policy, landscape value and susceptibility for all three SLAs is considered **High** and overall sensitivity to change **High**.

6.8.78 The following provides details of the baseline for each SLA considered.

Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA

6.8.79 This SLA is located 7.7 km to the south west of the Proposed Development (see Figure 6.7) and covers an extensive part of the Scottish Borders. Comprising an upland landscape, the SLA extends from Minch Moor in the north, Yarrow in the east, to the Council administrative boundary in the west. The SLA encompasses the hills around Broad Law and Hart Fell, extending northwards to the Broughton Heights, and westwards to Culter Fell.

6.8.80 Glenkerrie operational wind farm is located in the western part of the SLA which is also influenced by the large clusters around Clyde Wind Farm to the west and beyond the designation. Other operational wind farms are located beyond the boundaries of the designation and include Bowbeat to the north and Langhope Rig to the east.

6.8.81 Dark-skies mapping shows that this SLA falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the periphery of the SLA such as settlements and roads located within the Tweed Valley to the north and north east.

6.8.82 SBC described the Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA in Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) as follows:

'This extensive area represents the Southern Uplands within the Borders. It comprises steep rolling landform, with deep valleys and rounded peaks of glacial origin. The area lacks the blanket forest cover that affects other areas, and is predominantly open moorland of rough grass and heather. This is a highly scenic area of dramatic landform, and has a significant degree of wildness. The more rugged, rocky summits in particular have a strong sense of remoteness, with little overt human influence on the landscape. The large reservoirs are the only substantive human incursion, but add variety rather than reducing remoteness. Together with St Mary's Loch they form the only substantial water bodies in the Borders, and the Loch in particular provides scenic variety in combination with the hills. Key summits include Minch Moor overlooking the Tweed, Broad Law, the highest in the Borders, and Culter Fell on the South Lanarkshire boundary. The uplands extend north to Broughton Heights, providing the setting for the NSA.

The uplands are well used for recreation, with the Southern Upland Way among many signposted routes in the area. Notable features include high peaks such as Broad Law, and the reservoirs at Talla and Megget which offer water-based activities, and provide access into the hills. St Mary's Loch is also a popular recreational destination, offering outdoor access and water-based activities. The upper Tweed is an important route through the Borders, as well as providing access into the hills.'

Tweed Valley SLA

6.8.83 This SLA is located 1.2 km to the south of the Proposed Development and covers the Tweed Valley extending between Thornielee in the east, and Peebles in the west (see Figure 6.7). It is bounded to the north by the Moorfoot Hills, to the east by the edge of Elibank and Traquair Forests, to the south by the uplands around Minch Moor, and west to the boundary of the Upper Tweeddale NSA.

6.8.84 No operational wind farms are located within this SLA although from elevated areas and the periphery, wind farms in the surrounding area are visible but set further back such as Bowbeat to the north.

6.8.85 Dark-skies mapping shows that this SLA is affected by light pollution from settlements and roads within the Tweed Valley with darker skies occurring on valley sides where forestry is the predominant land cover.

6.8.86 SBC described the Tweed Valley SLA in SPG as follows:

'The broad Tweed Valley is typical of the Borders, and is the most familiar of the Borders valleys. Accordingly it has a strong sense of place, with certain views being instantly recognisable. The varied mix of landscape elements is highly representative, with forestry, woodland, open hillsides and pastoral farmland all juxtaposed. Added to this mix is a range of settlement types, with the valley providing the setting to several settlements. The landscape unfolds as the viewer follows the river through the valley, presenting new vistas alternately dominated by forestry, as around Walkerburn, or by the steep rocky slopes above Innerleithen. The contrast between the well-settled valley and the bare heather and grass moors and landmark hills is striking. Well-designed forestry actively contributes to this visual experience in places.

There are numerous opportunities for enjoying this landscape, including the cycle routes at Glentress and elsewhere, golf courses, equestrian centres, and walking routes. The tourist potential of the area is also significant, with Peebles being a key centre, and several attractions including Traquair House. Time depth is evident in estate landscapes and historic buildings. Horsburgh Castle provides a sharp contrast to new development around Cardrona, although landscape works around the new settlement are now maturing, folding this latest addition int the patchwork of the valley.'

Tweed, Ettrick, and Yarrow Confluences SLA

6.8.87 This SLA is located 6.9 km to the south east and covers the confluences of the rivers Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow, and adjoining upland (see Figure 6.7),

6.8.88 No operational wind farms are located within this SLA although from elevated areas and the periphery, wind farms in the surrounding area are visible but set further back such as Longpark to the north and Langhope Rig to the south.

6.8.89 Dark-skies mapping shows that this SLA falls within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to around the periphery of the SLA associated with nearby settlements and roads such as Clovenfords, Galashiels, Melrose, the A72 road and the A7 road.

6.8.90 SBC described the Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA in SPG as follows:

'The confluence of these three valleys form a key node within the Borders, linking the main population centre with the highly typical Border valley landscapes. The area has a strong sense of place, and contains representative Border features, albeit that each valley retains its own character. The enclosing uplands and upland fringes offer contrast and an attractive wider setting, and enable views across the valleys, the descending approach to Selkirk along the A699 being particularly scenic.

East of Thornielee, the Tweed flows in to a narrower section, winding between steep valley sides which are often densely forested. The Yarrow enters a narrow, picturesque section around. Yarrowford, characterised by woodland and estate buildings. The Yarrow flows into the Ettrick south of Selkirk, where the valley broadens, and is characterised by parkland influences, with mixed woodland climbing the valley sides. North of Selkirk the Ettrick joins the Tweed, which here broadens as it approaches the Galashiels area. The valley sides running east form a major part of the setting of Galashiels, Tweedbank and Melrose. A series of estate landscapes give visual diversity to these valleys, including Abbotsford, Sunderland and Bowhill. The area forms the setting for Selkirk, the town with its prominent spire forming an attractive feature in the land-scape since, unusually for the Borders, it is located on higher ground.

Although several A roads pass through the landscape, there are many tranquil areas. The Southern Upland Way follows the ridge between Tweed and Yarrow, offering views across the area, before crossing the Tweed towards Galashiels, and there are numerous other paths. Attractions in the area include Abbotsford and Bowhill, and the area is very accessible from the main Borders settlements and further afield.'

Visual Baseline

6.8.91 The assessment of visual effects of the Proposed Development considers the effect on visual amenity throughout the 45 km study area. Visual receptors are people who will be affected by changes in views or visual amenity at different places. They are usually grouped by what they are doing at these places and include:

- People living and working in the area, such as residents and farm workers;
- People who view the Proposed Development sequentially such as those travelling through the area on road, rail, or other forms of transport;
- People visiting promoted tourist attractions and landscapes; and
- People pursuing other recreational activities.

6.8.92 These visual receptors comprise the visual baseline.

Selected Viewpoints

6.8.93 Analysis of the ZTVs (see Figures 6.2a – 6.4), together with site knowledge and verification were used to identify a provisional list of viewpoints which were investigated during scoping stage consultation with the SBC and NatureScot. The scoping report identified a list of provisionally selected viewpoints to be included in the finalised LVIA assessment. Following a review of the scoping opinion (Appendix 1.1: Scoping Opinion, Volume 4), a desk-based survey, site verification and subsequent consultation with SBC and several Community Councils, a finalised list of 23 viewpoints was taken forward.

6.8.94 The finalised list of selected viewpoints includes a variety of different types of view to represent the worst-case scenario of views of the Proposed Development. These are referred to as representative views, specific views and exemplifying views from publicly accessible locations, which are defined in paragraph 6.19 of GLVIA3[27] as:

- *'**Representative viewpoints**: selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptors, where larger number of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where the significant effects are unlikely to differ. For example, certain points may be chosen to represent the views of users of public footpaths and bridleways;*
- ***Specific viewpoints**: chosen because they are key views and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape, including for example scenic viewpoints from roads, specific local visitor attractions, viewpoints in areas that are particular noteworthy for visual and/or recreational amenity, such as landscapes with statutory landscape designations, or viewpoints with particular cultural landscape associations; and*
- ***Illustrative viewpoints**: chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issue, which might be the restricted visibility at certain locations.'*

6.8.95 Viewpoints are selected to take account of the viewing experience (such as static views from settlements and sequential views from routes) cumulative views of other developments and as far as possible are representative of the range of key visual receptors and view types (including panoramas, vistas, glimpsed views), as well as being located at varying distances, elevations, and orientations from the Proposed Development.

6.8.96 Although these selected viewpoints primarily represent visual receptors, their location within certain designated landscapes or character types illustrate potential changes in the experiences from these landscapes, giving an indication of potential landscape effects. The predicted views from the selected viewpoints may therefore be cited as examples of such landscape effects within Landscape Assessment detailed in Section 6.9 of this chapter.

6.8.97 The selected viewpoints assessed in the LVIA are identified below and described in detail in Appendix 6.5: Viewpoint Assessment and are listed below.

Table 6.24: Selected Viewpoints

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Coordinate		Distance to the Proposed Development (km)	Direction to the Proposed Development
		Easting	Northing		
1	Dewar Gill	334745	646359	4.1	South east
2	Lauder Common	348682	643448	11.8	South west
3	Core Path 41 near Scroof Hill	341018	643481	3.9	South west
4	The Meldons	321934	642837	13.9	East
5	Priesthope Hill	335067	639957	1.2	North east
6	The Sware	323719	639737	12.2	East

[27] Landscape Institute., Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. (2013) Guidelines for Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment. Routledge. London.

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Coordinate		Distance to the Proposed Development (km)	Direction to the Proposed Development
		Easting	Northing		
7	A7 road, near Buckholm	347028	639005	9.6	West
8	Lee Pen	332591	638606	4.0	North east
9	Bonnington Road, Peebles	325107	638321	11.1	North east
10	A72 road, East of Hoylee	339730	637092	4.8	North west
11	Innerleithen, car park	332900	636696	5.0	North east
12	Minor road/NCR1 (The Batta)	340207	636182	5.8	North west
13	Traquair	332674	635209	6.3	North east
14	Peel	343488	635066	8.9	North west
15	Hundleshope Heights	324998	633883	12.9	North east
16	SUW/B709 road near Kirkhouse	332258	633752	7.8	North east
17	SUW, Minch Moor	335871	633059	7.6	North
18	Eildon Hills	354819	632291	20.0	North west
19	Three Brethren	343273	631930	11.1	North west
20	Selkirk Common	348957	627553	18.1	North west
21	Clovenfords	345053	636256	9.5	North west
22	Cairn Hill Cairn	3364499	638655	2.0	North
23	SUW, Blake Muir	330248	630747	11.4	North east

Residential Receptors

6.8.98 Residential receptors are divided into individual residential properties/groups close to the Proposed Development and whole settlements within the study area.

Individual Residential Properties

6.8.99 The Landscape Institute has published a guidance note[28] to support landscape professionals in undertaking RVAA for developments. This document promotes a logical approach to the assessment of views of developments from residential receptors. Table 1 of SPP states a distance of 2 km for the consideration of visual impact. Following consultation with SBC, it was agreed to assess all residential properties within 3 km of the Proposed Development.

6.8.100 Using OS and GIS data mapping, a total of 6 properties/property groups were identified within a 3 km radius of the outermost proposed turbines.

6.8.101 A review of aerial photography was undertaken to ascertain the access or approach to the property, the orientation of the property, the extent of its curtilage and the presence of vegetation and buildings around the property. A ZTV was then prepared, and the properties plotted as shown in Figures 6.40a-f. This aids the identification of properties that are not predicted by the ZTV to receive views of the Proposed Development. A site survey was then carried out to verify these desktop studies and to ascertain whether properties were indeed inhabited.

6.8.102 The following individual residential properties are assessed in detail in the RVAA in Appendix 6.6: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment and listed below.

[28] Landscape Institute (2019) Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

Table 6.25: Properties included in the RVAA

ID	Property Name	Grid Coordinates
Property 1	Seathope	337747, 640841
Property 2	Caberstongrains	337636, 640827
Property 3	Blackhopebyres	334404, 644025
Property 4	Glentress	333905, 643081
Property 5	Colquhar	333259, 641537
Property 6	The Common	333490, 639524

6.8.103 A baseline description of the views obtained from each property is detailed in Appendix 6.6.

6.8.104 For the purpose of this assessment, all residential receptors are considered to be of **High** sensitivity to change in their view. This considers that people at their home attach **High** value to their existing view and visual amenity and are more susceptible to being affected by changes in their visual amenity.

Settlements

6.8.105 The distribution of settlements throughout the study area generally correlates to the key valleys and consequently the key transportation routes mainly occurring in the Tweed Valley to the south of the Proposed Development. Within the Tweed Valley are numerous individual residential properties, farmsteads and hamlets/building groups and scattered small villages.

6.8.106 Similar to the RVAA, all residential receptors in settlements are considered to be of **High** sensitivity to change in their view as a result of **High** value to their existing view and susceptibility.

6.8.107 Site work verified the selection of 7 settlements to be assessed in detail for potential effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

Walkerburn

6.8.108 Walkerburn is a linear settlement located to the east of Innerleithen on the A72 road on the north bank of the River Tweed 3.3 km to the south east of the Proposed Development. Situated between 130 – 180 m AOD, views tend to be inwards towards the A72 road, but some properties do obtain slightly elevated views across the River Tweed to the adjacent hillsides, and at the east and west of the village, along the Tweed Valley. Views to the north are restricted by rising landform and woodland/forestry.

6.8.109 No operational wind farms are visible from this settlement.

Innerleithen

6.8.110 Innerleithen is located where the Leithen Water meets the River Tweed and is situated on the northern bank of the river 4.2 km south west of the Proposed Development. Elevations vary with the northern part of the settlement being on the lower slopes of Caerlee Hill affording elevated views across the River Tweed floodplain between 137 – 190 m AOD. The remainder of the town is within the floodplain occupying an area between the A72 road and the River Tweed. From this location surrounding built form influences the view. Nevertheless, from most of the settlement, views beyond can be experienced of the nearby uplands directly to the north, as well to the south and along the valley in an east to west direction.

6.8.111 No operational wind farms are visible from this settlement.

Peebles

6.8.112 Peebles is located on the confluence of the River Tweed and Eddleston Water and where the A703 and A72 roads converge 9.4 km west of the Proposed Development between approximately 160 – 200 m AOD. The northern part

of the settlement is tucked into the hill slope and views are influenced by a combination of built form, landform, and forestry. To the south of the River Tweed, the settlement is situated within the floodplain of the river affording views along the Tweed Valley and of the surrounding hills sides.

6.8.113 No operational wind farms are visible from this location.

Traquair

6.8.114 Is a small settlement located to the south of Traquair House and on a key point on the Southern Upland Way (SUW) where there is a car park to aid access to Minch Moor. The hamlet is situated at approximately 160 m AOD, 6.8 km to the south west of the Proposed Development. Views from the settlement are mixed due to the built form and surrounding vegetation. It is however possible obtain views beyond the foreground to the surrounding landscape, in particular towards Scawd Law and Windlestraw Law.

6.8.115 No operational wind farms are visible from this location.

Peel

6.8.116 Peel is a hamlet located on the southern bank of the River Tweed near Ashiestiel and south west of Caddonlee situated 6.0 km to the south east of the Proposed Development at approximately 120 m AOD. Views from the hamlet are influenced by woodland and tree cover within the confines of the settlement, and from riparian woodland on the River Tweed creating framed and heavily filtered views of the surrounding farmland and hillsides.

6.8.117 No operational wind farms are visible from the settlement.

Stow

6.8.118 Stow is a village located on the A7 road on the eastern side of the River Gala Water ranging between 180 – 210 m AOD. Contained within the narrow Gala Water valley, the elevation allows views across the floodplain of the river as well as along the river valley to the north west, and south, although built form and trees within the village provide some partial screening.

6.8.119 Toddleburn is the nearest operational wind farm to the south east but is set back from the village reducing visibility.

Clovenfords

6.8.120 Clovenfords is a village located 8.9 km to the south east of the Proposed Development at an elevation of approximately 180 m AOD. The village sits nearby to the A72 road as it passes over high ground between the River Tweed and Galashiels. Views are over surrounding agricultural land.

6.8.121 The blade tips of Longpark are visible from the north western periphery of the settlement. Otherwise, no further operational wind farms are visible from this location.

6.8.122 All settlements discussed above are considered to be influenced by artificial lighting due to lighting from properties, street lighting and vehicles travelling along adjacent roads.

Sequential Routes

6.8.123 A review of the ZTV, wirelines and site work verified the selection of 6 roads, 2 long distance footpaths, 4 Core Paths and several hill tops to be assessed in detail for potential effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

A7 Road

6.8.124 The A7 road is a major trunk road that passes in a north to south direction through the study area which is 8.6 km at its nearest point to the east of the Proposed Development. The route generally follows a series of interconnecting valleys through the Scottish Borders predominantly across farmland contained by the surrounding upland hills and forestry.

6.8.125 Several operational wind farms are visible sequentially along this route, the most notable being Longpark due to its close proximity to the road near Bowland.

6.8.126 The value of views and susceptibility are considered to be Medium overall for this road as road users are likely to be appreciating the surrounding landscape although only a short section of the road is within the Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA resulting in an overall **Medium** sensitivity for the route.

A72 Road

6.8.127 The A72 road is a major road that connects South Lanarkshire with Galashiels in the Scottish Borders and generally crosses the study area in a north west to south east direction, 3.2 km at its closest point to the Proposed Development. This route generally follows a series of valleys within the Scottish Borders through farmland contained by steep sided hillsides and is popular with visitors to the area, especially when passing through the Tweed Valley.

6.8.128 Value and susceptibility of the road are considered to be High on account of the scenic quality of the section of the road passing through the Tweed Valley where road users are likely to be appreciating the view as they travel along the road, combined with passing through a series of local level landscape designations. Overall sensitivity is **High**.

B709 Road

6.8.129 The B709 road is the second longest B-road in Britain extending between the A7 road in the Moorfoot Hills, to Langholm and passes through the study area in a north to south direction, 2.4 km at its closest point to the west of the Proposed Development. The road passes through several valleys that are predominantly pasture contained by steep-sided hillsides and affords enclosed to open views across the surrounding landscape, mainly following the valley in which it is contained.

6.8.130 The majority of operational wind farms are set back from this route and views from it are largely unaffected.

6.8.131 Sensitivity for the road is considered to be **High** on account of its recreational use (National Cycle Route 1) where both value and susceptibility are considered to be High.

B6362 Road

6.8.132 This road extends between Lauder in the east and Stow in the west and is 9.0 km to the north east of the Proposed Development and experiences views across Lauder Common as well as the surrounding farmland and moorland. Views tend to be open with some screening coming from foreground landform.

6.8.133 Due to the elevation of the road, operational wind farms can be viewed to the north (Toddleburn) and south (Longpark).

6.8.134 Sensitivity for the road is considered to be **High** on account of its popularity for recreation where both value and susceptibility are considered to both be High.

B7062 Road

6.8.135 This road extends between Peebles in the west, and Traquair in the east and generally follows a north west to south east direction on the southern floodplain of the River Tweed. The road passes through farmland with views often limited by adjacent hedgerows and woodland with visibility beyond being contained by the surrounding hillsides.

6.8.136 Views of operational wind farms are limited from this road due to surrounding landform, forestry, and woodland.

6.8.137 Sensitivity for the road is considered to be **High** on account of its recreational use where both value and susceptibility are considered to be High.

Minor Road South of the River Tweed

6.8.138 This road runs between Innerleithen in the west, and Peel in the east, following the southern bank of the River Tweed and is 3.6 km to the south of the Proposed Development at its nearest point. Views tend to be along the

direction of travel and across the river to the steep sided slopes of the Tweed Valley. Views to the south are limited by forestry and landform. Visibility experienced range between framed views along the route, to heavily filtered by woodland or open across the floodplain to the north.

6.8.139 No operational wind farms are visible from the road.

6.8.140 Sensitivity is considered to be **High** as the road is popular recreationally by walkers and cyclists (NCR1) and passes through a series of local landscape designations leading to a High value and susceptibility.

6.8.141 The roads discussed above are all in areas where darkness levels are on the upper scale. However, these would be influenced by lights emitting from the vehicle travelling in, any oncoming vehicles and settlements passed through.

Footpaths

Southern Upland Way (SUW)

6.8.142 The SUW is one of Scotland's Great Trails comprising 12 stages of which four (Stage 8: St Marys Loch to Traquair, Stage 9: Traquair to Melrose, Stage 10: Melrose to Lauder, and Stage 11: Lauder to Longformacus) cross the study area generally in a north east to south west direction. These sections cover a mixture of open ground, often elevated allowing extensive views across the upland landscapes and a series of dales and glens dissecting the route, to sections of forestry where visibility is severely reduced.

6.8.143 Operational wind farms are a common feature in views along the route and include Fallago Rig, Toddleburn and Langhope Rig.

6.8.144 Dark-skies mapping shows that SUW predominantly crosses areas that are remote and fall within the darkest categories of night-time lighting. Light pollution is limited to sections of the route passing through valleys where artificial lighting from vehicles and settlement can be observed.

6.8.145 The trail is popular with walkers or runners on day trips, completing sections or the entire trail. Part of the trail passes through the Tweedsmuir Uplands, Tweed Valley and Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA and value is considered High. Susceptibility is also considered to be High as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

Cross Border Drove Road

6.8.146 This route is one of Scotland's Great Trails between Hawick and Haperrig in West Lothian. It passes through the study area in a north west to south east direction to the west of the Proposed Development. The route crosses a mixture of upland landscapes and valleys allowing open expansive views to more enclosed visibility in lower lying areas.

6.8.147 The trail is popular with walkers or runners on day trips, completing sections or the entire trail. Part of the trail passes through the Tweed Valley and Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA as well as following sections of the SUW across Minch Moor. Value is considered High as well as susceptibility as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

Core Paths within 5 km

6.8.148 The assessment of Core Paths located within 5 km of the Proposed Development was agreed with SBC through consultation. No Core Paths are located within the Proposed Development Area.

6.8.149 Core Paths are popular with locals, walkers and runners, value and susceptibility are High as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**. A total of 4 Core Paths have been identified for assessment as follows.

Core Path No.42 – Stow – Blackhaugh

6.8.150 This footpath passes through the hills between Stow and Blackhaugh following a series of interconnecting valleys and crossing some minor hill tops 3.0 km to the east of the Proposed Development.

6.8.151 Operational wind farms are common in views along the route but tend to be set back forming distant features to the south.

Core Path No.161 – Walkerburn – Priesthope

6.8.152 This short section of footpath heads north from Walkerburn as far as Priesthope but does not include the summit of Priesthope. The footpath ascends through forestry to the tree line where the landscape opens out into moorland affording elevated views over the Tweed Valley.

6.8.153 There are no immediate operational wind farms in the vicinity and views of turbines are distant to the south.

Core Path No. 163: Walkerburn – Minch Moor

6.8.154 This core path leads south from Walkerburn and joins the SUW to the south near Minch Moor. Predominantly in forestry, the path obtains views to the north across the Tweed Valley.

6.8.155 Operational wind farms are limited in views and include Bowbeat to the north.

Core Path No. 181 - Innerleithen – Walkerburn

6.8.156 This core path follows the southern bank of the River Tweed between Walkerburn and Innerleithen.

6.8.157 No operational wind farms can be seen from this route due to landform screening.

6.8.158 Dark-skies mapping shows that Core Paths predominantly cross areas that are rural and fall within the upper darkest categories of night-time lighting but influenced by light pollution from the nearby A72 road and settlements of Walkerburn and Innerleithen.

Hill Tops

6.8.159 The Proposed Development is located in an area that is popular with hill walkers both in the Moorfoot Hills where the Proposed Development Area is located, and to the south the Ettrick Forest with a number of summits being mentioned on The Mountain Guide[29]. These are accessed via network of interconnecting paths passing through a predominantly upland landscape where the lower sections of paths tend to be fully to semi-enclosed by surrounding hillsides, to more extensive views from upper slopes and summits of the surrounding upland landscape.

6.8.160 The table below provides a list of the summits within 10 km of the Proposed Development predicted by the ZTV to receive theoretical visibility.

Table 6.26: Notable Hill Tops within 10 km of the Proposed Development

Hill Top	Distance from Proposed Development (km)	Direction from the Proposed Development
Bareback Knowe	1.1	West
Blackhope Scar	7.8	North west
Black Law	5.0	West
Bowbeat Hill	8.8	North west
Bowbeat Rig	9.8	North west
Bowshank Hill	6.9	East
Brown Knowe	8.4	South east

[29] https://www.themountainguide.co.uk/scotland/moorfoot-hills

Hill Top	Distance from Proposed Development (km)	Direction from the Proposed Development
Carcant Hill	9.6	North
Cardon Law	9.6	North west
Cairn Hill*	2.2	North
Dod Law	8.0	North
Dunlee	3.8	East
Dunslair Heights	7.2	West
Eastside Heights	3.3	North west
Ferniehirst Hill	5.4	East
Garvald Law	7.4	North west
Great Law	3.9	East
Glengaber Hill	10.9	South
Halltree Rings	9.3	North east
Hare Hill	8.0	South
Jeffries Corse North Top	11.1	North west
Lamb Law	8.3	North west
Lee Pen	3.9	South west
Longshaw Law	8.8	North west
Middlebar Knowe	5.0	South
Middle Hill	4.9	North west
Plora Rig	5.6	South
Scroof Hill	3.5	East
Stoney Knowe	3.0	South east
Wanders Knowe	6.4	South east
Whiteside Law	8.6	North west
Windlestraw Law	81 m	North east

* Denotes included as a Viewpoint

6.8.161 There are also a high number of hill tops popular with walkers beyond 10 km to the north and south which are not listed here due to the high numbers but are considered in the assessment where appropriate.

6.8.162 Value and susceptibility are considered to be High for all summits as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High** for all summits.

Cumulative Baseline

6.8.163 An initial cumulative search area of 60 km from the proposed scheme was delineated. The broad distribution of wind farm developments and their status within the planning system within 60 km of the Proposed Development is illustrated on Figure 6.11. These include all consented schemes, those schemes in the planning system as valid applications (including schemes at appeal). Recently withdrawn sites have not been included and those sites at Scoping or registered with a Pre-Application Notice (PAN), are not finalised applications and have therefore not been included. A cumulative cut-off date of the **23rd of November 2022** was applied to the assessment.

6.8.164 The cumulative baseline identifies those developments that the assessor considers require detailed cumulative assessment in the CLVIA. These include all consented, and valid planning applications within an approximate 45 km radius from the Proposed Development and are illustrated on Figure 6.13a – 6.16b and listed in Appendix 6.2. Sites currently at Scoping Stage have not been included in the assessment due to their uncertainty but have been included on the wirelines for context.

6.8.165 Within the study area there is a large concentration of operational wind farms (Scenario 1) located to the north east around the Dunbar Common at 35-45 km, to the north west between 35-45 km south west of Livingston, and between 30-45 km to the south west near Abington. There is a further concentration of developments between 10-15 km to the north east of the Proposed Development; thereafter, limited to individual wind farms located to the north, east and south.

6.8.166 The addition of Scenario 2 developments to the baseline would result in a further concentration of turbines in the vicinity of Dunbar Common, south west of Livingston and at Abington. One new development, Cloich, would introduce turbines into an area west of Bowbeat and Pines Burn and Windy Edge further to the south east, albeit beyond 40 km from the Proposed Development.

6.8.167 Scenario 3 developments would result in Greystone Knowe located within 10 km to the north east of the Proposed Development which would be located in the intervening landscape between the proposed site and the Toddleburn / Dun Law and Pogbie grouping of turbines. Two variations to tip heights have been submitted, the first at Cloich to the west, and the second at Heathland near Livingston. One further application site is located beyond 40 km to the south, namely Faw Side.

6.9 POTENTIAL IMACTS DURING DEVELOPMENT PHASES

6.9.1 Based on the detailed description of the Proposed Development in Chapter 4: Project Description, the likely sources of landscape and visual impacts that will occur during each phase are as follows:

Table 6.28: Potential sources of landscape and visual impacts during each development phase

Construction	Operational	Decommissioning
Vehicular/personnel movements, including vehicles associated with the construction travelling in both directions along the B709 road and lighting in the Proposed Development Area.	Occasional maintenance activity and vehicular/personnel movements around the site and on local roads.	Vehicular/personnel movements, including lighting on the site.
The disturbance of areas of land and surface vegetation.	Access tracks and hardstanding areas at each turbine location at ground level.	Access tracks will either be left for use by the landowner or covered in topsoil.
Excavation of borrow pit and reinstatement.	Site monitoring of restoration.	Implementation of site restoration following an agreed Decommissioning Method Statement.
The upgrading of existing site access tracks and formation of new tracks, crane hardstandings at each turbine location and the substation.		Deplanting of grid infrastructure, removal of the grid connection compound, and reinstatement of the compound location to match the character and condition of the existing landscape where required.
Installation of new substation control building.	Onsite substation.	Removal of substation and control building.

Construction	Operational	Decommissioning
Reinstatement of temporary compounds, borrow pits stock piles and track sides following construction.	Site monitoring of restoration.	Reinstatement of temporary compounds, track sides during decommissioning.
The gradual introduction of tall vertical structures (turbines and a monitoring mast) and the use of cranes during installation. The turbines themselves would be erected over a short period, typically 1-2 days per turbine, and the appearance of the construction cranes in views of the site would therefore be of short duration.	Tall vertical structures with moving parts (turbines and monitoring masts), and medium intensity aviation lights.	Dismantling and removal of wind turbines and anemometer masts, trimming of foundations to a depth of 1 m below ground surface levels, and restoration of turbine locations to match the character and appearance the existing landscape.

6.9.2 Potential effects of the Construction and Decommissioning phases would include temporary effects on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area (both direct and indirect) and indirect on the landscape character and visual amenity of the immediate area. The potential effects of the Construction and Decommissioning Phases are considered together in this assessment due to the similarity of operations involved for the Proposed Development Area and wider landscape. Construction effects are short term, reversible unless stated.

6.9.3 Operational effects will occur during the 35-year life cycle of the Proposed Development and be associated with the operational wind turbines, supporting infrastructure such as substation/control building, met mast and access tracks. Effects from these are considered long term and reversible unless otherwise stated

6.9.4 Post decommissioning of the Proposed Development, including the removal of all above ground structures and reinstatement works, the remaining effects would largely relate to the retained site entrance and site tracks, and the restored borrow pit. The site will be returned to unimproved pasture and open moorland.

6.10 MITIGATION

Embedded Mitigation

6.10.1 Embedded mitigation is mitigation that has been identified and adopted as part of the evolution of the project design.

6.10.2 NatureScot's current guidance[2] *Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape* (version 3a August 2017 para 1.15) states that '*Wind farms should be sited and designed so that adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity are minimised and so that landscapes which are highly valued are given due protection. If wind farms are sited and designed well the capacity of our landscape to incorporate this type of development is maximised.'*

6.10.3 Paragraph 3.22 of NatureScot's guidance goes on to state that '*It is important to site and design a wind farm so that it relates directly to the qualities of a specific site. The main design elements are likely to include the following:*

- *'Layout and number of wind turbines;*
- *Size, design, and proportion of wind turbines;*
- *Type, route and design of new and existing upgraded access tracks, including the amount of cut and fill required and the junctions with public roads;*
- *Location, design and restoration of hardstandings;*
- *Location, design and restoration of borrow pits;*
- *Location, design and restoration of temporary construction compounds;*
- *Location and size of wind monitoring masts;*
- *Positioning and mitigation of turbine lighting (if required);*
- *Visitor facilities, including paths, signs, parking and visitor centre (if proposed); and*
- *Land management changes, such as muirburn, woodland management or felling, fences, and stock grazing.'*

6.10.4 Based on NatureScot's guidance together with an analysis of the baseline context of the Proposed Development area and advice received from consultees, the embedded mitigation would include consideration of the following issues in relation to the landscape, visual and cumulative context:

Site Location and Layout

6.10.5 The siting and layout of the Proposed Development was based on an iterative design process aimed at reducing environmental effects whilst achieving suitable technical and commercial objectives bearing in mind the recent and emerging changes to funding mechanisms and the requirement for wind energy to compete in a Levelized Cost of Electricity Market (as discussed further in both Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Evolution).

Design Principles

6.10.6 The design strategy for the key elements of the Proposed Development has taken into account the following objectives:

- To maximise site efficiency and electricity production;
- To provide a turbine layout with simple form, which relates to the landform and landscape character of the site and its surroundings;
- Retain a suitable separation between operational / consented wind farms and the Proposed Development;
- To avoid areas of constraint where practical;
- To create a turbine layout which reflects the scale of the landscape in which it is located;
- To avoid an overly complex and visually confusing layout;
- To achieve a balanced composition of the turbines against the landscape and skyline from key viewpoint locations;
- To relate turbine height to topography;
- To give due consideration to turbine proportions; and
- To reflect the pattern of nearby existing and consented wind farms as far as practical.

Proposed Turbines

6.10.7 The Proposed Development would make use of three bladed horizontal axis turbines with tubular steel towers. Care was taken to achieve a balanced ratio between tower height and blade length to avoid the rotor diameter or turbine tower being the dominant factor.

6.10.8 With regard to the colour of the proposed turbines, NatureScot Guidance[30] states that '*Selecting the most appropriate colour for a turbine(s) is an important part of detailed windfarm design and mitigation. It has previously been assumed that wind turbines could be painted a colour that would camouflage them against their background. Experience has shown that it is not possible to 'hide' turbines*' (para 2.7).

6.10.9 Para 2.9 of this guidance goes on to state that '*As a rule for most rural areas of Scotland*:

- *a single colour of turbine is generally preferable;*

[30] SNH (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape (Version 3a)

- *a light grey colour generally achieves the best balance between reducing visibility and visual impacts when seen against the sky, although this works less well when viewed against the land;*
- *light coloured turbines seen against a land backdrop may have greater prominence than light or dark turbines seen against the sky;*
- *paint reflection should be minimised. Texture is an important factor in reducing reflectivity, and matt or light absorbent finishes are preferable; and*
- *for multiple wind farm groups or wind farm extensions, cumulative colour effects will be a key consideration. A strategic to turbine colour is desirable and the colour of turbines should generally be consistent.'*

6.10.10 In cognisance of the guidance a simple off white/pale grey colour and non-reflective render is therefore proposed for the proposed turbines.

Aviation Lighting

6.10.11 Elements of the Proposed Development at 150 m or greater in height would require lighting under Article 222 of the Air Navigation Order (ANO, 2016)[31]. This requires medium intensity 'steady' red aviation lights (emitting 2,000 candela (ca)) to be fitted at the wind turbine nacelle level. In addition, the CAA requires low intensity lights to be fitted at the intermediate level on the turbine tower (CAA, 2017). The intermediate lights will be 32 ca. It is proposed that visibility sensors are installed on relevant turbines to measure prevailing atmospheric conditions and visibility range. Should atmospheric conditions (for example an absence of low cloud cover, rain, mist, haze or fog) mean that visibility around the site is greater than 5 km from the Proposed Development, CAA policy permits lights to operate in a lower intensity mode of 200 ca (being a minimum of 10% of their capable illumination). If visibility is restricted to 5 km or less, by weather conditions, the lights would operate at their full 2,000 ca. In effect, the CAA policy allows 'dimming' of the lights depending on meteorological conditions, which has the effect of reducing the perceived intensity of light in clear conditions. Aviation lights will be switched on half an hour after sunset i.e. civil sunset, or during periods of poor visibility.

6.10.12 Medium intensity aviation lights would be installed on all 8 turbines which would also have 32 ca low intensity lights at mid-tower height.

6.10.13 It should be noted that 2,000 candela lights observed at the threshold visibility limit of 5 km (poor visibility conditions) have a lower illuminance than the 200 candela lights viewed in typical clear conditions, for distance beyond 5 km. Therefore, for the purposes of this assessment, 200 candela lights are assumed to be worst case scenario.

6.10.14 The assessment of aviation lighting is an evolving subject area, and it is difficult to replicate aviation lights in photomontages due to a range of issues highlighted in NatureScot guidance (2017)[32]). For the purposes of comparison, a 2,000 ca light (in poor visibility) has an illuminance below that of the brightest star, and comparable to a car brake light seen within 5 km. Beyond this distance, the light becomes unobservable due to atmospheric conditions.

6.10.15 Core Document 12.2 to the Crystal Rig (Phase IV) documentation (Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) reference: WIN-140-8) sets out the detail of aviation lights, how they propagate light and how the human eye perceives them. With reference to this tried and accepted technical information, an assessment of their visual impacts has been carried out in this section.

6.10.16 A 200 ca light at distances of 10 – 15 km from well-lit areas is comparable to the brightest of stars, when the eye is dark-adapted with decreasing intensity beyond up to 40 km.

6.10.17 Aviation lights are designed to be seen horizontally, therefore, for angles below the horizontal plane, the luminous intensity of aviation lighting decreases. Figure 6.4 and 6.5a-h show the theoretical lighting intensities predicted. It should be noted that light intensities reduce with distance which the ZTVs do not demonstrate. Light intensities within 5 km of the Proposed Development in clear visibility would be comparable to car brake light, and beyond 5 km, to the brightest star in the sky.

6.10.18 At the Proposed Development, it has been estimated by an aviation lighting expert that the viewpoints 17 (SUW, Minch Moor, Figures 6.33a-f) and 23 (Blake Muir, Figures 6.39a-f) would be most affected where c.60-80 cd would be seen from most of the turbines. Viewpoint 16 (SUW/B709 near Kirkhouse, Figures 6.26a-f) by comparison will only see c.20 cd. Viewpoint 2 (Lauder Common, Figures 6.18a-f) would experience c.40 cd. Given all turbines are >5 km from these viewpoints, in poor conditions when lights would not be dimmed, they will be attenuated sufficiently that no greater effect would be seen regardless. For comparison, a standard car brake light is c.80 cd and is of similar colour (though not quite so single red in nature). Therefore, at worst case the experience is equivalent to a car brake light at c.7.5 km (however the previously mentioned 5 km has been used for the assessment as a worst-case scenario).

6.10.19 For viewpoints located to the south of the Proposed Development (e.g., 16: SUW/B709 near Kirkhouse, 17: SUW, Minch Moor and 23: Blake Muir) then two other effects are relevant. As the night visualisation shows (Figure 6.33g), the northern sky remains light in the summer, so the turbines are viewed against a light background. This is the most useful point to make when thinking about the SUW since it is likely that the greater use is in the lighter months. There is no full darkness looking in the arc between the setting and rising sun for about 6 weeks either side of the summer solstice, and even for a month or so before/after that it is very limited. Furthermore, in the darker months there will still be some background lighting in view directly towards Innerleithen and the central belt with all its light pollution.

Access Tracks

6.10.20 Approximately 6.8 km of new tracks would be required extending between the proposed site entrance on the B709 road, including sections linking to proposed turbine locations. New tracks have been designed, amongst other environmental criteria, to avoid prominent slopes and summits to reduce the requirement for cut and fill.

6.10.21 During the construction phase of the Proposed Development all access tracks would be constructed/widened to a nominal width of 5 m and wider on bends and junctions to accommodate construction vehicles and abnormal load deliveries.

6.10.22 The proposed internal tracks are aligned to take advantage of the screening effect of intervening topography and/or vegetation where possible.

Crane Pads

6.10.23 These would be surfaced to match the proposed track construction. Whilst crane pads would be retained for the duration of the Proposed Development, they are likely to be fully or partially screened from the majority of external viewpoints by topography and the angle of view.

Cabling, Substation, Control Building, Energy Storage and Permanent Compound

6.10.24 In order to avoid potential visibility of the grid connection cables these would be undergrounded within the site from each turbine to the substation and onsite grid connection. Undergrounded sections of cable would, wherever practicable, be placed beside proposed access tracks to reduce disturbance of the landscape and to ease future maintenance.

6.10.25 Supporting infrastructure will be constructed at the Proposed Developed including Substation, Control Building and Energy Storage facility within a permanent compound (see Figure 1.2: Site Layout, Volume 3a) and will be used for the management of the Proposed Development. This will be situated away from residential properties as well as on the main turbine access track to avoid the requirement for further access tracks.

[31] The Air Navigation Order 2016. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/765/contents/made (Accessed: 30 September 2021).

[32] SNH (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms

Construction Compound

6.10.26 During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, a temporary construction compound and laydown site will be required. Upon completion of construction works, the compound would be removed and the ground reinstated. To ensure that the compound and laydown area can be returned to a condition consistent with the existing landscape, suitable construction methods and soil handling methods would be adopted. These would be specified in the Construction Method Statement (CMS) (see Chapter 9: Hydrology, Geology & Hydrogeology for detail).

Borrow Pit

6.10.27 The aggregate required for the new tracks and for upgrading of existing tracks would be won from a borrow pit shown on Figure 1.2: Site Layout. This excavation is located to avoid prominent slopes and summits in order to screen most excavation activities from visually sensitive locations reducing the potential effect on the landscape and visual resource. Site won aggregate would aid the access tracks to blend in with the surrounding landscape and reduce the requirement for importing foreign material to site. The borrow pit would be restored during the construction phase of the Proposed Development and subject to suitable aftercare provisions. See Appendix 9.4: Borrow Pit Search Assessment for details.

Construction Methods and Landscape Reinstatement

6.10.28 Throughout all phases of the Proposed Development, ground disturbance on site would be confined, as far as practicable, to access tracks, turbine base areas, lay-down areas, crane pads and undergrounded sections of the grid connection cables. The proposed location of these elements is described in Chapter 4: Project Description (see Figures 4.1 – 4.11, Volume 3a). Moreover, working widths would be restricted and carefully monitored and any existing landscape feature or materials arising from site operations that are to be retained would be safeguarded.

6.10.29 Where possible stockpiled overburden materials would be used in re-instating the site borrow pits and tracks. It is also highlighted that spoil from other working areas such as turbine bases may also be used to achieve the restoration profile. Overburden shall only be removed over the area necessary for safe removal of the rock to prevent affecting land out-with the extraction area. It should be noted that overburden volumes can only be estimated following intrusive site investigation works. It is anticipated that there will be minimal waste materials produced by the borrow pit development. Any un-useable rock and superficial deposits shall be temporarily stockpiled during construction and utilised as part of the borrow pit restoration scheme.

6.10.30 On completion of the construction phase, all areas subject to ground disturbance would be reinstated to match adjoining undisturbed ground. Additionally, the surface of the former temporary compound would be scarified to prepare the surface for subsoil base and seeded to match surrounding vegetation.

6.10.31 A detailed construction and reinstatement method statement would be agreed with SBC, NatureScot and Scottish Environment Protection Agency prior to commencement of construction activities.

6.10.32 During decommissioning of the Proposed Development, all above ground structures (including access tracks) would be removed and the ground reinstated. Subject to further assessment of site hydrology and soil cover depths, below ground structures and foundations would be left in place to avoid further disturbance.

6.10.33 The LVIA considers the residual effects of the construction and operational phases resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development following the mitigation measures which have been embedded into the design of the proposed layout.

6.11 ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE & VISUAL EFFECTS

Landscape Character

6.11.1 The aim of the landscape assessment is to identify, predict and evaluate potential key effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development into the landscape as an environmental resource. Landscape effects may be caused by changes to the constituent features or elements of the landscape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities and overall character. Landscape effects on designated landscapes are also considered in this assessment. This involves the assessment of changes to the special landscape qualities, which determine its reason for designation and the overall integrity of the designation.

6.11.2 Assessing the significance of landscape effects requires the identification of the landscape receptors, the consideration of the nature of the landscape receptors (sensitivity, see Section 6.8) and the nature of the effect (magnitude) which would be experienced by each landscape receptor as a result of the Proposed Development. The methodology for the landscape assessment is detailed in Appendix 6.1: Landscape & Visual Impact Methodology, including the method of identifying the susceptibility of landscape receptors. The lower the susceptibility, the greater the ability of the LCT/landscape designation to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue adverse effects.

6.11.3 A cumulative landscape impact assessment is also included in the following landscape assessment and considers the level of effect as a result of the addition of the proposed development into each cumulative baseline scenario separately.

6.11.4 The following provides a summary of the effects on the landscape character of the Proposed Development Area and landscape character within the wider study area.

Proposed Development Area

6.11.5 Overall sensitivity for the Proposed Development Area is considered Medium on account of the lack of any formal designation, combined with the quality of the proposed site and importance as a backdrop to the Tweed Valley.

6.11.6 All 8 of the proposed turbines and supporting infrastructure are situated within LCT 190: Dissected Plateau Moorland (see Section 6.3 of this chapter and Chapter 4: Project Description).

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.7 During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, there will be potential for short-term direct impacts of activities associated with the construction of infrastructure and turbines. Potential impacts during this phase are reversible unless otherwise stated (e.g., creation of permanent new features such as earthworks, access tracks, hardstandings and components of the Proposed Development that will be retained post decommissioning).

6.11.8 The construction stage of the Proposed Development would result in the following activities:

- Construction/decommissioning of access tracks (including upgrades) and crane pad hardstandings;
- Creation of a borrow pit and the extraction of material followed by reinstatement;
- Construction/restoration of a temporary construction compound;
- Construction/Decommissioning of a control building, energy storage and compound;
- Construction/decommissioning of 8 wind turbines and associated crane operations;
- Excavation/reinstatement of cable trenches;
- Construction/decommissioning of a permanent anemometry mast (located within each land portion);
- General reinstatement works; and
- Vehicular/personnel movements on site.

6.11.9 The key characteristics of the LCT likely to be affected during the construction and operational periods include the following:

- *Semi-natural peatland, heather moorland and grassland communities dominant, with a high degree of perceived naturalness of vegetation cover.*

6.11.10 Such operations would result in direct effects on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area. This will include vegetation clearance, excavation of soil, earthworks, the introduction of new elements and activity associated with construction which would contrast with the existing land use and moorland context. Except for the project components listed in Section 6.3, land use within the Proposed Development Area would not change during construction.

6.11.11 This would result in the permanent loss of 12.16 ha of unimproved, semi-improved and improved grassland within the Proposed Development Area, and 4.51 ha of heather and 5.55 ha of modified bog.

6.11.12 It is considered the magnitude of change on the landscape resource of the Proposed Development Area would be **Substantial** resulting from the direct physical effects relating to the permanent loss of grassland, heather, and modified bog, combined with the perceptual change of the landscape over a localised area within LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland. This would cover a small geographical extent of the overall Proposed Development Area where the size and scale of the change would be large occurring over a short period of time, and reversible in the long-term.

6.11.13 This will result in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect on the physical landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area which would be short-term until construction activities cease, and the operational effects take over.

Proposed Development Area During Operation

6.11.14 Following reinstatement post construction, the Proposed Development Area would enter the operational stage with activity within the proposed site reducing to works associated with the operation and maintenance of 8 wind turbines, battery/energy storage, substation, and access tracks. This would create additional movement within the landscape as well as the project components mentioned contrasting with the current land use resulting in both direct and indirect effects from the physical elements of the Proposed Development, and perception of remoteness within the Proposed Development Area. The nature of the effects on the proposed site would be long term during the operational life (35 years) and reversible beyond this period following decommissioning. Except for the project components listed in Section 6.3, land use within the Proposed Development Area would not change during operation. There are currently no consented or proposed wind farm developments located within, or in proximity to the Proposed Development Area which could contribute to direct landscape effects to the proposed site.

6.11.15 Magnitude of change on the landscape resource of the Proposed Development Area would remain as **Substantial** during operation due to the size and scale of the changes occurring over a localised area including the operation of 8 wind turbines, anemometry mast, access tracks, earthworks, compound, battery storage and substation.

6.11.16 This would result in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect on the physical landscape fabric and perception of the Proposed Development Area during operation. The nature of these effects would be direct, long-term, and reversible.

Landscape Character in the Wider Study Area

6.11.17 Of the 59 LCTs located within the 45 km study area, a further 5 have been identified as having the potential to experience a significant landscape effect as a result of the Proposed Development and are assessed as follows:

LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland

6.11.18 Overall sensitivity for the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of the Dissected Plateau Moorland LCT is **High**. This is due to the Proposed Development Area forming part of the southern extent of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit which contributes to the setting of the Tweed Valley to the south of the LCT.

6.11.19 Within the wider Moorfoot Plateau Unit of this LCT, the ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility would be widespread within 4.5 km to the north, east and west where all eight of the proposed turbines are predicted to be visible. Beyond this area, theoretical visibility is predicted to reduce both geographically and the extent of the turbines experienced due to partial screening by topography. This would occur on elevated locations where upper slopes face the Proposed Development, reducing as elevation decreases or the intervening landform becomes more complex providing foreground screening. To the west, theoretical visibility would be further reduced by large-scale forestry covering Glentress Forest and Leithenwater Forest but would increase if felling occurred during the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

6.11.20 A series of viewpoints represent the perceptual change experienced in the wider LCT from different elevations and distances from the Proposed Development as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 1: Dewar Gill (B709 Road / NCR1) – Figures 6.17a-f;
- Viewpoint 3: Core Path 41 near Scroof Hill – Figures 6.19a-f;
- Viewpoint 5: Priesthope Hill – Figures 6.21a-f; and
- Viewpoint 8: Lee Pen – Figures 6.24a-f.

6.11.21 The following key characteristics are likely to be affected by the introduction of the Proposed Development:

- *'Plateau landform consisting of a series of level-topped hills and ridges.*
- *Strong topographic identity and overall grandeur of scale.*
- *Individual hill masses separated by steep sided valley features of differing scales.*
- *Scattered prehistoric settlement and burial mounds above water courses.*
- *Sense of wildness created by wide horizons and long distance, unobstructed views.'*

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.22 During construction, site enabling works and the installation of turbines and associated infrastructure would result in direct effects on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area as mentioned above. Within the wider area, the size and scale of the changes would affect the southern part of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit where the proposed turbines would form new prominent tall vertical features alongside the supporting infrastructure in a large-scale plateau landscape.

6.11.23 This would result in a substantial change in terms of the perceptual experience which would occur mainly within the Proposed Development Area and immediate surrounding hill sides extending to approximately 5 km from the Proposed Development; thereafter, becoming less widespread and limited to hill summits and the upper slopes facing the Proposed Development Area. In these locations, there would be an increase in activity as the supporting infrastructure is constructed followed by the installation of turbines. This would contrast with the areas current land use, perception of remoteness, and activity levels. This would also affect several cultural heritage assets nearby addressed separately in Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.

6.11.24 On completion of the construction phase, there would be no additional alterations to the Proposed Development, and it would enter the operational stage.

6.11.25 Landscape magnitude of change during construction would be **Substantial** extending to 5 km as a result of the size and scale of the changes, combined with the geographical area affected surrounding the Proposed Development Area. Thereafter, activities associated with construction would be less apparent owing to distance

and partial screening by landform within the unit resulting in **Moderate** to **Negligible** landscape magnitude of change as distance increases, intervisibility reduces and dependent on the elevation experienced from.

6.11.26 This would result in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect within the Proposed Development Area and its immediate environs out to 5 km, reducing to **Moderate** adverse and **significant** and **Minor** adverse not significant effects elsewhere as distance increases and screening becomes more of an influence as a result on landform and forestry.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.27 The nature of the effects on landscape character would be both direct and indirect, long term during the operational life of the Proposed Development and reversible beyond this period because of decommissioning. The direct effects upon character would arise from the siting of 8 turbines, anemometry mast, substation/energy storage in a large-scale plateau landscape.

6.11.28 The Proposed Development would be more prominent within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of this LCT compared to the operational schemes which are located to the north and north west and over 8 km away. From the southern parts of the LCT, the proposed turbines would form new prominent tall vertical features alongside the supporting infrastructure near the summit of Windlestraw Law and connecting ridgeline and spurs.

6.11.29 During operation, turbines would be experienced rotating adding additional movement to the landscape alongside the supporting infrastructure and maintenance vehicles. This would contrast with the current land use and perception of remoteness experienced within the LCT. This would also affect several cultural heritage assets nearby addressed separately in Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.

6.11.30 All 8 aviation lights would be experienced within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit at various light intensities depending on elevation, predominantly on plateau tops of the surrounding hillsides to the north, east and west. The ridgeline in which the Proposed Development is located on would receive the highest intensities of 200 ca in clear visibility with illuminances comparable to a car brake light seen within 5 km, reducing in intensity beyond 5 km. All 8 of the 32 candela tower lights would also be visible from close range, although the light from these is not as intense and would fade with distance.

6.11.31 Magnitude of change would be **Substantial**, resulting from the size and scale of the changes including the introduction of 8 wind turbines, anemometry mast, substation/energy storage and access tracks. These would-be long-term features within the landscape but reversible. Beyond 5 km, magnitude of change would reduce as the scale of the turbines would become less owing to the large-scale landscape that it is located within, and the reduced geographical area affected. This would result in **Moderate** to **Negligible** levels as distance increases and intervisibility reduces within the unit.

6.11.32 This would result in a **Major significant** adverse effect within the Proposed Development Area and its immediate environs, reducing to **Moderate significant** and **Minor** adverse not significant effects elsewhere.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.33 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within this unit of the LCT, and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment undertaken for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.34 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe is proposed 5.6 km to the north east. This is located in the northern part of the Moorfoot Plateau Unit is already influenced by operational wind farms in the surrounding landscape. Figure 6.15b shows that the addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would lead to intervisibility of wind farms in the south of the unit which is currently unaffected. Both developments would be experienced in combination and successively in the north and south as well as the intervening area between the two sites. Greystone Knowe would appear at a lower elevation allowing clear separation between both schemes.

6.11.35 The magnitude of change and overall effect would be the same as Scenario 1, with the main perceptual change occurring within the central area between the Proposed Development and Greystone Knowe where both schemes would be experienced successively, rather than across the whole unit. Despite the increase in turbines within the LCT, the key characteristics would be largely unaffected and still be recognisable as the Dissected Plateau Moorland LCT with the main change affecting the perception of remoteness in the core area of the Moorfoot Plateau unit.

LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders

6.11.36 Overall sensitivity for LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders is **Medium** due to its lack of national or local designation combined with its land use for agriculture where the landscape has been heavily modified over time.

6.11.37 The ZTV shown on Figure 6.6 shows that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would cover a large geographical area within the LCT mainly comprising all 8 turbines. Intervisibility is predicted from summits and west facing slopes at distances of 8.6 – 20.6 km.

6.11.38 Viewpoint 2: Lauder Common (Figures 6.18a-f, Volume 3b) provides an example of the baseline and perceptual change from the Proposed Development experienced from this LCT.

6.11.39 The following key characteristics would be affected during construction and operation:

- *Wind farm development in the northern and central parts of the Landscape Character Type.*
- *Remote, isolated quality.*
- *Open, panoramic views.'*

6.11.40 The introduction of the Proposed Development would result in additional turbines being experienced located in a different LCT in combination and successively with operational sites located within the Plateau Grassland – Borders LCT. This has the potential to affect the perception of remoteness within the LCT as well as intervisibility beyond the LCT to neighbouring LCTs.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.41 Works associated with construction of the Proposed Development would be limited to the installation of the proposed turbines as the supporting infrastructure would be located on the southern side of the ridgeline and generally screened. This would include all 8 turbines being installed along a ridgeline to the south west of the LCT introducing tall structures and additional movement in the landscape from crane operations experienced along with operational wind farms.

6.11.42 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distances involved where the changes would be short-term and reversible.

6.11.43 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and not significant effect due to the indirect nature of the effect combined with the distances involved between the LCT and Proposed Development, where wind turbines are not an uncharacteristic feature.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.44 Wind turbines are a characteristic feature of this LCT with Dun Law I & II and Pogbie I & II located in the north, and Toddleburn in the south. The addition of the Proposed Development into this cumulative baseline would introduce turbines to the south west albeit further away from the LCT. During operation all 8 rotating turbines would be perceived from a large geographical extent of the LCT which currently includes other operational wind farms.

6.11.45 Aviation lights would be experienced between 200-4 ca in clear visibility and experienced from within this LCT beyond 5 km in a landscape with artificial lighting sources such as settlements and vehicles travelling along roads, appearing as faint red lights in the distance.

6.11.46 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distances involved where the changes would be long-term and reversible.

6.11.47 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and not significant effect due to a combination of the indirect nature of effect, distance, and presence of other operational wind farms within the LCT.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.48 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this LCT and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.49 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe is proposed 2.8 km to the west and would be a noticeable addition within this LCT. The introduction of the Proposed Development to the cumulative baseline would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the south west; however, this would occupy a small part of the landscape and set further away from the LCT. The Greystone Knowe application also includes aviation lighting which would be more apparent within the LCT due to its closer proximity and lights would be viewed at a stronger intensity. The addition of the Proposed Development is not considered to increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders

6.11.50 Overall sensitivity for LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders is **High** due to the LCT being designated at a local level for its scenic quality although it is considered that the characteristics of the LCT could accommodate the type of development proposed.

6.11.51 The ZTV on Figure 6.6 indicates theoretical visibility covering the northern extent of this LCT gradually reducing southwards and confined to hill tops and upper north facing slopes between 3.9 – 26.7 km. From here, all 8 turbines would be perceived, although it is worth noting that forestry would reduce the extent of theoretical visibility which would vary across the operational life of the project as plantations are clear-felled and replanted.

6.11.52 A series of viewpoints represent the perceptual change experienced in the wider LCT as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 17: SUW, Minch Moor – Figures 6.33a-g;
- Viewpoint 19: Three Brethren – Figures 6.35a-f; and
- Viewpoint 23: Blake Muir – Figures 6.39a-f.

6.11.53 The following key characteristics would be affected during construction and operation as follows:

- *Degree of remoteness, wild character, and grandeur of scale unique within the region.'*

6.11.54 The Proposed Development would introduce tall man-made features in the distance which have the potential to affect the perception of remoteness of this LCT, although this would be in the context of other operational wind farms in neighboring LCTs and forestry plantations which reduce the quality of remoteness.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.55 The construction works would be perceived from the locations noted above from close range to more distant views. This would include the installation of the proposed turbines including crane operations as well as the supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines along the ridgeline. The result would introduce man-made features and movement into the surrounding landscape albeit beyond in a neighboring LCT.

6.11.56 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** for the closest areas forming the southern side of the Tweed Valley, an area with a high occurrence of forestry, reducing to **Slight** and **Negligible** levels on account of the indirect nature of the change and distance involved where it is not considered to alter the key characteristics of this LCT. This would be short-term and reversible.

6.11.57 This would result in a **Major-moderate** adverse **significant** effect for the northern part of the LCT bordering the Tweed Valley, reducing to non-significant levels of **Minor** and **Negligible** as a result of the higher sensitivity of the LCT combined with distance from the Proposed Development.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.58 All 8 turbines would be perceived from this LCT along the ridgeline during operation with the supporting infrastructure being less noticeable once restoration works have been completed. This would introduce turbines into an area currently unaffected wind energy and would have limited effect on the key characteristics noted in the baseline.

6.11.59 Aviation lights would be experienced between 200-4 ca in clear visibility and illuminances would be comparable to a car brake light within 5 km, and beyond this to the brightest star in the sky, reducing as distance increases resulting in 8 faint red lights viewed through the skyglow of Innerleithen and Peebles depending on direction of view.

6.11.60 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distances involved where it is not considered to alter the key characteristics of this LCT. This would be long-term and reversible.

6.11.61 This would result in a **Major-moderate significant** adverse effect due to the High sensitivity of the LCT combined with distance from the Proposed Development, reducing to **Moderate** and **Negligible** not significant levels with distance.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.62 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this LCT and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.63 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe 11.7 km to the north east and would be perceived beyond the Proposed Development from some elevated areas partially screened by landform. This would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the north and include additional aviation lighting, albeit at distance where the Greystone Knowe would be faint. However, this would occupy a small part of the overall landscape and set further back from the LCT. It is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders

6.11.64 Sensitivity for LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders is **High** as a result the LCT being partially covered by the Upper Tweeddale NSA and recognised for its scenic quality at a local level.

6.11.65 The ZTV on Figure 6.6 shows that theoretical visibility would be very limited within the LCT, mainly occurring on elevated ground at distances of 11.1 - 36.5 km to the south west of the Proposed Development, where 8 turbines would be perceived. The main area of concern is the north east corner which borders the Tweedsmuir NSA and includes the eastern side of Hundleshope Heights, Preston Law, Middle Hill, and Dun Rig, all predicted by the ZTV to receive theoretical visibility of all 8 turbines.

6.11.66 One viewpoint represents the perceptual change experienced in the wider LCT as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 15: Hundleshope Heights – Figure 6.31a-f.

6.11.67 The following key characteristics are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development:

- *High degree of remoteness, wild character and grandeur of scale within the region.*
- *Wide ranging panoramic views from summits.'*

6.11.68 The Proposed Development would introduce tall man-made features in the distance which have the potential to affect the perception of remoteness of this LCT and be viewed within panoramic views from elevated areas.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.69 The construction works would be perceived from the locations noted above and include the installation of the proposed turbines including crane operations as well as the supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines along the ridgeline. These would form distant features beyond the LCT and include movement of vehicles and plant.

6.11.70 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distance involved where it is not considered to alter the key characteristics of this LCT. This would be short-term and reversible.

6.11.71 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse not significant effect as a result of the higher sensitivity of the LCT combined with distance from the Proposed Development.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.72 All 8 turbines would be perceived from a limited part of this LCT during operation with the supporting infrastructure being less noticeable once restoration works have been completed. This would introduce turbines into an area currently unaffected in an adjacent LCT but would have a limited effect on the key characteristics noted in the baseline.

6.11.73 Aviation lights would be experienced at 200 ca in clear visibility from elevated locations and intensities would be comparable to the brightest star in the sky.

6.11.74 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distance, would be long-term and reversible.

6.11.75 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse not significant effect due to the **High** sensitivity of the LCT combined with distance from the Proposed Development, reducing to non-significant effects of **Minor** and **Negligible** with distance.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.76 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this LCT and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.77 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe would be a noticeable addition to the landscape but at distances of 18.1 km. The introduction of the Proposed Development to the cumulative baseline would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the north east including aviation lights. However, this would occupy a small part of the landscape and set further away from the LCT, albeit more prominent than Greystone Knowe which would be partially screened by landform. It is not considered to increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe

6.11.78 Overall sensitivity for LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe ranges between **High** for the limited parts of the LCT that are designated at a national and local level, and overall **Medium** in undesignated areas where it is considered that the landscape has characteristics that could accommodate the type of development proposed.

6.11.79 The ZTV on Figure 6.6 shows that theoretical visibility would mainly occur on the west facing slopes and summits within both units of the LCT between 5.1 – 19.7 km to the north west of Clovenfords and north of Galashiels. One viewpoint represents the perceptual change experienced in the wider LCT as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 21: Clovenfords – Figure 6.37a-f.

6.11.80 The key characteristics likely to be affected by the Proposed Development are:

- *A simple, uniform landscape of smooth flowing curves, open in character with distant views over adjoining valley types and the Lammermuir and Moorfoot hills.*

6.11.81 The introduction of the Proposed Development would result in new man-made features and activity being experienced in the neighbouring LCT covering the Moorfoot Hills affecting distant views and experienced within the context of Longpark operational scheme which sits between the two units of the LCT, resulting in combined and successive intervisibility.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.82 The construction works would be perceived from the locations noted above and include the installation of the proposed turbines as well as the supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines along the ridgeline. This would introduce man-made features and movement into the surrounding landscape albeit beyond in a neighboring LCT.

6.11.83 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change, screening by landform and distances involved where it is not considered to alter the key characteristics of this LCT. This would be short-term and reversible.

6.11.84 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse not significant effect due to a combination of the overall **Medium** sensitivity and distance from the Proposed Development.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.85 During operation, the proposed turbines would be partially perceived along the skyline to the north west and the supporting infrastructure would be screened from view by landform. This would introduce turbines into an area currently unaffected wind energy and would have limited effect on the key characteristics noted in the baseline.

6.11.86 The aviation lighting ZTV shown on Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case) shows scattered areas experiencing aviation lights at lighting intensities of 75-4 candela (clear visibility) at distances of 4.9 - 16.2 km where the light intensity will be comparable to a star in the sky.

6.11.87 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** due to the degree of screening by landform and woodland combined with the indirect nature of the change where it would have a limited effect on the key characteristics of this LCT during operation.

6.11.88 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse not significant effect due to a combination of the overall **Medium** sensitivity and distance from the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.89 No Scenario 2 or 3 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this LCT and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland

6.11.90 Sensitivity for LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland is High and includes the Upper Tweeddale NSA, Traquair House GDL, and is recognised at a local level for its scenic quality and small-scale characteristics.

6.11.91 The ZTV shows theoretical visibility occurring on the northern ridgeline directly to the south of the Proposed Development and the southern bank of the River Tweed covering the Elibank and Traquair Forest, both of which include extensive areas of coniferous forestry. Elsewhere, theoretical visibility is predicted on the southern bank of the River Tweed extending between Traquair and Peebles to the west, and the east facing upper slopes of the Leithen Valley, to the west of the Proposed Development. From these locations, the landscape is more open and less influenced by woodland and forestry.

6.11.92 A series of viewpoints represent the perceptual change experienced in the wider LCT as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 6: The Sware – Figures 6.22a-f;
- Viewpoint 8: Lee Pen – Figures 6.24a-f;
- Viewpoint 9: Bonnington Road, Peebles; - Figures 6.25a-f;
- Viewpoint 10: A72, east of Holylee (wireline only) – Figures 6.26a-f;
- Viewpoint 11: Innerleithen Car Park – Figures 6.27a-f;
- Viewpoint 12: Minor Road / NCR1 (The Batta) – Figures 6.28a-f;
- Viewpoint 13: Traquair – Figures 6.29a-f;
- Viewpoint 14: Peel – Figures 6.30a-f;
- Viewpoint 16: SUW/B709, near Kirkhouse – Figures 6.32a-f; and
- Viewpoint 22: Cairn Hill Cairn – Figures 6.38a-f.

6.11.93 The following key characteristics would likely be affected due to the introduction of the Proposed Development:

- *Flat valley floor, broad and open in places, narrow and more intimate in others.*
- *Prominent terraces (haughlands) caused by fluvial and glacial action.*
- *Strong influence of woodland, with extensive coniferous forest prominent on valley sides, and mature hedgerow tree lines, broadleaf, and mixed policy woodlands on valley floor.*
- *Traditional dwellings, farmsteads and hamlets clustered at the foot of valley side slopes.*
- *Mill towns prominent on valley floor and sides.*
- *Tower houses and mansions common along river banks.*
- *Prehistoric hillforts common on gently rounded hill tops.*
- *Designed policies and parklands significantly contribute to woodland cover and character.'*

6.11.94 The key characteristics for this LCT demonstrate that small-scale characteristics are predominant within this LCT in which their scale could be affected by the introduction of the Proposed Development on the ridgeline above.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.95 During construction and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development, activity associated with ground disturbance operations, new access tracks, crane pad hardstandings, and installation of 8 turbines, together with associated vehicular and personnel movements on site would be perceived from the areas noted above where forestry and woodland has less influence. Such operations would be indirect and short term during the construction and decommissioning periods.

6.11.96 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the close distance, indirect nature of the change, and partial screening by landform and forestry. Within 8 km, it is considered that the Proposed Development would have a minor alteration to the key characteristics and would be short-term and reversible, reducing to **Slight** and **Negligible** levels elsewhere.

6.11.97 This would result in a **Major-moderate** adverse **significant** effect in parts of the LCT directly to the south and south west at Traquair, reducing with distance along the valley due to the limited extent of the Proposed Development experienced, combined with distance and the screening effects from woodland and forestry both within and on the valley sides, reducing with distance to non-significant levels.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.98 During operation, effects on this LCT would arise from the siting of 8 operational turbines, anemometry mast, substation/energy storage area and access tracks located within a large-scale plateau landscape. These would be long term during the operational life of the Proposed Development, and reversible beyond this period due to decommissioning.

6.11.99 Aviation lights would be experienced from the north facing valley slopes between Peebles and Traquair where lighting intensities would be between 8-4 ca in clear visibility at distances 6-12 km and comparable to the brightest star in the sky.

6.11.100 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** for areas near the Proposed Development on the ridgeline to the south of the Proposed Development, and **Slight** elsewhere due to partial and full screening by landform, forestry and woodland, as well as distance. Changes experienced would be long-term during operation, and reversible.

6.11.101 This would result in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect directly to the south occupying the northern ridgeline, and **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effects along the southern valley sides to approximately 8 km where woodland, forestry and distance would reduce effects to non-significant levels. It should be noted that intervisibility would mainly occur on the valley sides rather than the floor where the A72 road and settlements are situated.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.102 No Scenario 2 or 3 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this LCT and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

Protected & Designated Landscapes

National Level Designations

Upper Tweeddale NSA

6.11.103 The Upper Tweeddale NSA has a **High** sensitivity to change on account of its national level designation.

6.11.104 The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility being limited within the NSA occurring in elevated locations in the north east covering the northern boundary of the designation around Hundleshope Heights, Cademuir Hill, a ridgeline running between the River Tweed south to Pykestone Hill, Canada Hill, Stob Law, Scawd Law, Logan Head, high ground to the west of the A701 road and north of the River Tweed. From these locations, 1-8 turbines are predicted to be theoretically visible at distances of 12.4 – 28.1 km. The areas affected comprise open hill sides and forestry plantations.

6.11.105 One viewpoint represents views from the northern periphery of the NSA as follows (Figure can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 15: Hundleshope Heights – Figures 6.31a-f.

6.11.106 The special qualities of the NSA likely to be affected are:

- *Expansive, open hills with panoramic views.*

6.11.107 The Proposed Development would introduce tall man-made features in the panoramic views beyond the NSA boundary.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.108 The construction works would be perceived from the locations noted above and include the installation of the proposed turbines as well as part of the supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines along the ridgeline including short sections of access track, substation, and meteorological mast where they would form distant features.

6.11.109 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change occurring, combined with the limited extent of theoretical visibility predicted within the NSA, distance from the Proposed Development and limited change to the special qualities noted.

6.11.110 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and not significant effect due to a combination of limited theoretical visibility within the NSA, distance from the Proposed Development and only one of the special qualities being affected during construction which would be short-term and reversible.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.111 All 8 turbines would be perceived from a limited part of this NSA during operation with the supporting infrastructure being less noticeable once restoration works have been completed. This would be visible beyond the NSA boundary over 12 km to the north east and would have limited effect on the special qualities, affecting views beyond the NSA boundary where operational wind farms can be experienced at similar distances.

6.11.112 Aviation lights would be experienced mainly from the north eastern part of the NSA around Hundleshope Heights and include hill tops with open views across the Tweed Valley and surrounding uplands. Light intensities would be between 200 ca in clear visibility at distances over 12 km and comparable to the brightest star in the sky and experienced within the context of light pollution within the Tweed Valley including skyglow from Peebles and Innerleithen.

6.11.113 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change occurring, combined with the limited extent of theoretical visibility predicted, distance and limited change to the special qualities noted. This would be long-term and reversible.

6.11.114 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse not significant effect due to the distances involved, limited theoretical visibility predicted for a **High** sensitivity landscape receptor.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.115 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this NSA and would form distant features and with the addition of the Proposed Development, would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.116 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe would be a noticeable addition to the landscape. The introduction of the Proposed Development to the cumulative baseline would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the north east; however, this would occupy a small part of the landscape and set further away from the NSA, albeit more prominent than Greystone Knowe which would be partially screened by landform. A combination of landform and distance would reduce the number and intensity of lights experienced alongside the Proposed Development. It is not considered to increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

Traquair House GDL

6.11.117 Sensitivity for the Traquair House GDL is **High** due to its inclusion in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes administered by HES.

6.11.118 The ZTV on Figure 6.7 shows that the entire policies of the GDL would likely receive a theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development to the north. A field visit confirmed that this would be substantially reduced by existing woodland both within the GDL and on the northern periphery.

6.11.119 One viewpoint represents views from the main gate looking towards Traquair House as follows (Figure can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 13: Traquair House – Figures 6.29a-f.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.120 Policy woodland influences the experience within the GDL which tends to be focussed on the architectural and landscape features within the grounds, often views are directed in a particular direction by avenue of trees for example. Intervisibility beyond the GDL is curtailed by both woodland although it is possible to experience glimpses in some locations of the surrounding farmland and hill sides containing the Tweed Valley.

6.11.121 The Proposed Development would introduce a new feature experienced out with the designation that would partially break the skyline and include Turbines 2, 3 and 6 at hub height and the blade tips of Turbines 1, 5 and 7 barely perceptible above the forested hill summits. However, it is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would alter the experience of landscape features within the GDL due to a combination of woodland screening and the limited extent of the Proposed Development experienced.

6.11.122 During construction, the size and scale of the change would be small covering a limited part of the policies as a result of screening by woodland. This would include crane operations during the installation of the proposed turbines and would not feature any of the ground level infrastructure which would be screened by forestry. Magnitude of change is **Slight**, short-term, and reversible.

6.11.123 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect due to the **High** sensitivity of the receptor, but not considered significant as a result of the limited part of the overall GDL affected due to screening by woodland.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.124 Similarly, during operation, the size and scale of the change would be small covering a limited geographical area because of experiencing proposed turbines rotating from a limited geographical area. This would result in a **Slight** magnitude of change, long-term and reversible.

6.11.125 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect due to the **High** sensitivity of the receptor but is not considered significant due to the limited part of the overall GDL affected due to screening by woodland.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.126 No cumulative Scenario 2 or 3 sites would be visible from the GDL.

Local Landscape Designations

6.11.127 Three local level designations were also identified as potentially receiving a significant effect and are assessed as follows.

Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA

6.11.128 Overall sensitivity for the Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA is **High** due to its designation at a local level.

6.11.129 The ZTV on Figure 6.7 indicates theoretical visibility covering the northern extent of this SLA gradually reducing southwards and confined to hill tops and upper north facing slopes. From here, all 8 turbines would be perceived between 6.8 – 36.3 km, although it is worth noting that forestry would reduce the extent of theoretical visibility which would vary across the operational life of the project as plantations are clear-felled and replanted.

6.11.130 A series of viewpoints represent the perceptual change experienced in the wider SLA as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 17: SUW Minch Moor – Figures 6.33a-g; and
- Viewpoint 23: Blake Muir – Figures 6.39a-f.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.131 The construction works would be perceived from the locations noted above and include the erection of the proposed turbines as well as the supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines along the ridgeline.

6.11.132 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distance involved where the introduction of the Proposed Development would have limited effect on the special qualities of the SLA. This would be short-term and reversible.

6.11.133 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effect due to the **High** sensitivity combined with extent of theoretical visibility predicted and proximity to the Proposed Development.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.134 All 8 turbines would be perceived mainly from elevated areas within the SLA with the supporting infrastructure being less noticeable once restoration works have been completed. This would introduce turbines into an area currently unaffected in an adjacent SLA but would affect a limited number of the special qualities noted in the baseline which tend to focus on features within the SLA.

6.11.135 The extent of the aviation lighting ZTV shown on Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case) shows areas within the SLA experiencing lighting intensities ranging between 200-4 candela (clear visibility) depending on elevation which would be comparable to the brightest star in the sky and viewed in the context of sky glow given off by settlements in the Tweed Valley in the intervening area.

6.11.136 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distance involved where it is not considered to alter the special qualities of this SLA. This would be long-term and reversible.

6.11.137 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effect due to the **High** sensitivity combined with extent of theoretical visibility predicted and proximity to the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.138 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this LCT and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.139 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe to the north east and would be perceived beyond the Proposed Development from some elevated areas partially screened by landform. This would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the north; however, this would occupy a small part of the overall landscape and sit further away from the SLA and partly screened by landform. It is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

Tweed Valley SLA

6.11.140 Sensitivity for Tweed Valley SLA is **High** due to the landscape being designated at a local level.

6.11.141 The ZTV on Figure 6.7 shows theoretical visibility mainly occurring on the northern edge of the SLA and more widespread between the River Tweed and the southern valley slopes within the Tweed Valley where all 8 turbines would be visible between 1.2 – 14.1 km. The area affected includes woodland and coniferous forestry which would reduce actual visibility; nevertheless, the Proposed Development would form a prominent feature above the valley and be perceived alongside small-scale landscape features.

6.11.142 A series of viewpoints represent the perceptual change experienced in the wider SLA as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 6: The Sware – Figures 6.22a-f;
- Viewpoint 8: Lee Pen – Figures 6.24a-f;
- Viewpoint 9: Bonnington Road, Peebles; - Figures 6.25a-f;
- Viewpoint 10: A72, east of Holylee – Figures 6.26a-f;
- Viewpoint 11: Innerleithen Car Park – Figures 6.27a-f;
- Viewpoint 12: Minor Road / NCR1 (The Batta) – Figures 6.28a-f;
- Viewpoint 13: Traquair – Figures 6.29a-f;
- Viewpoint 14: Peel – Figures 6.30a-f;
- Viewpoint 16: SUW/B709, near Kirkhouse – Figures 6.32a-f; and
- Viewpoint 22: Cairn Hill Cairn – Figures 6.38a-f;

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.143 The construction works would be perceived from the locations noted above and include the installation of the proposed turbines including crane operations. The supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines would be partially visible as a result of screening by landform and forestry in the intervening landscape.

6.11.144 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the close distance, indirect nature of the change, and partial screening by landform and forestry. This would mainly occur in the more elevated parts of the valley such as valley sides, whilst the valley floor would remain largely unaffected due to screening by landform and forestry. This would be short-term and reversible.

6.11.145 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effect due to the **High** sensitivity combined with extent of theoretical visibility predicted and proximity to the Proposed Development.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.146 As described for construction, the operational turbines would be perceived as close features located along the ridgeline to the north and affect the special qualities. However, this would be confined to the valley sides, mainly the southern side of the Tweed Valley facing the Proposed Development and affect an area smaller than predicted due to the extent of forestry and woodland cover.

6.11.147 The aviation lighting ZTV shown on Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case) shows theoretical visibility of aviation lights mainly occurring on north facing valley slopes between Peebles and Traquair where light intensities would be between 8 to 4 candela (clear visibility) would be experienced at distances 6-12 km where the lights would be comparable with the brightest star in the sky and experienced within the context of artificial lighting within the Tweed Valley including skyglow from settlements.

6.11.148 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the close distance and degree of the change likely to occur affecting a limited part of the overall SLA. This would be long-term and reversible.

6.11.149 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** adverse effect due to proximity to the Proposed Development combined with the extent of theoretical visibility predicted to occur mainly on the valley sides rather than the floor where the A72 road and settlements are situated, reducing with distance to non-significant levels.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.150 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this SLA and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

Tweed, Ettrick, and Yarrow Confluences SLA

6.11.151 Overall sensitivity for the Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA is **High** due to the landscape being designated at a local level.

6.11.152 The ZTV on Figure 6.7 indicates theoretical visibility covering the northern extent of this SLA gradually reducing southwards and confined to hill tops and upper north facing slopes between 6.4 – 18.3 km). From here, all 8 turbines would be perceived, although forestry would reduce theoretical visibility and vary across the operational life of the project as plantations are clear-felled and replanted.

6.11.153 A series of viewpoints represent the perceptual change experienced in the wider SLA as follows (Figures can be found in Volume 3b):

- Viewpoint 14: Peel – Figures 6.30a-f;

- Viewpoint 19: Three Brethren – Figures 6.35a-f; and
- Viewpoint 21: Clovenfords – Figures 6.37a-f.

During Construction / Decommissioning Phases (Scenario 1)

6.11.154 The construction works would be perceived from the locations noted above and include the installation of the proposed turbines as well as the supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines along the ridgeline.

6.11.155 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the indirect nature of the change and limited extent of the SLA predicted to receive theoretical visibility This would be short-term and reversible.

6.11.156 This would result in a **Major-moderate** significant adverse effect due to the **High** sensitivity combined with extent of theoretical visibility predicted and proximity to the Proposed Development.

During Operation (Scenario 1)

6.11.157 All 8 turbines would be perceived from this SLA along the ridgeline during operation with the supporting infrastructure being less noticeable once restoration works have been completed. This would introduce turbines into an area currently unaffected in an adjacent SLA but would not affect the special qualities noted in the baseline.

6.11.158 The extent of the aviation lighting ZTV shown on Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case) is consistent with the ZTV described above where lighting intensities of 2000-40 candela (poor visibility) and 200-4 candela (clear visibility) would be experienced at distances beyond 5 km where the lights would be fainter.

6.11.159 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the close distance and degree of the change likely to occur affecting a limited part of the overall SLA. This would be long-term and reversible.

6.11.160 This would result in a **Major-moderate significant** adverse effect due to proximity to the Proposed Development combined with the extent of theoretical visibility predicted to occur mainly on the valley sides rather than the floor where the A72 road and settlements are situated, reducing with distance to non-significant levels.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.161 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located within or in the vicinity of this SLA and the addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.162 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe to the north west and would be perceived beyond the Proposed Development from some elevated areas partially screened by landform. This would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the north; however, this would occupy a small part of the overall landscape and set further away from the SLA. It is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

Visual Assessment

6.11.163 The aim of the visual impact assessment is to identify, predict and evaluate potential key effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development on people's views and visual amenity. Effects on views and visual amenity as experienced by people can be caused by changes in the appearance of the landscape resulting from the Proposed Development.

6.11.164 Assessing the significance of visual effects requires the identification of the visual receptors, the consideration of the nature of the visual receptors (sensitivity) and the nature of the effect (magnitude), which would be experienced by each visual receptor as a result of the Proposed Development. The methodology for the visual assessment is detailed in Appendix 6.1: Landscape & Visual Impact Methodology.

6.11.165 A cumulative visual impact assessment is also included in the following visual impact assessment and considers the level of effect as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development into each cumulative baseline scenario separately.

Viewpoints

6.11.166 A total of 23 viewpoints were selected to represent the most sensitive receptors within the study area (see Appendix 6.4: Viewpoint Assessment). A total of 4 were assessed as receiving a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect as follows:

- Viewpoint 3: Core Path 41 near Scroof Hill;
- Viewpoint 5: Priesthope Hill;
- Viewpoint 8: Lee Pen; and
- Viewpoint 22: Cairn Hill Cairn.

6.11.167 The above viewpoints are all located between 1.2 – 4.0 km from the Proposed Development Area and would receive very close views of the proposed turbines, aviation lights and supporting infrastructure during both construction and operational phases, Magnitude of change would be **Substantial**, which combined with a **High** sensitivity due to the viewpoint locations being hill summits popular with walkers results in a significant effect.

6.11.168 A total of 11 were assessed as receiving a **Moderate** adverse and significant effect as follows:

- Viewpoint 2: Lauder Common;
- Viewpoint 4: The Meldons;
- Viewpoint 6: The Sware;
- Viewpoint 9: Bonnington Road, Peebles;
- Viewpoint 10: A72, East of Holylee (wireline only);
- Viewpoint 12: Minor Road/NCR1 (The Batta);
- Viewpoint 15: Hundleshope Heights;
- Viewpoint 16: SUW/B709 near Kirkhouse;
- Viewpoint 17: SUW, Minch Moor;
- Viewpoint 19: Three Brethren; and
- Viewpoint 23: Blake Muir.

6.11.169 The viewpoints noted are generally of **High** sensitivity due to their recreational use and location within national and local level landscape designations. Covering distances between 4.8 – 13.9 km from the Proposed Development Area, the viewpoints are located to the south and west where they would obtain views of the proposed turbines on the skyline above the Tweed Valley. The 8 turbines would occupy a small part of the overall view, and partial screening of the bottom sections of the towers as well as the supporting infrastructure would lead to a **Slight** magnitude of change and **Moderate** adverse effect. All the viewpoints are considered to be **significant** on account of their proximity to the Proposed Development which would form a new and prominent feature within the view.

6.11.170 The remaining 8 viewpoints were all assessed as receiving a **Minor** adverse and not significant effect as follows:

- Viewpoint 1: Dewar Gill;
- Viewpoint 7: A7 road, near Buckholm;
- Viewpoint 11: Innerleithen, car park;
- Viewpoint 13: Traquair House;
- Viewpoint 14: Peel;
- Viewpoint 18: Eildon Hills;

- Viewpoint 20: Selkirk Common; and
- Viewpoint 21: Clovenfords.

6.11.171 These viewpoints range between 4.1 – 18.1 km from the Proposed Development Area and the proposed turbines and supporting infrastructure would occupy a small part of the overall view from each viewpoint due to a combination of factors including screening by landform and forestry, distance, and in some cases where the receptor is assessed as having a **Medium** sensitivity, combined with a **Slight** magnitude of change.

Residential Receptors

Individual Properties within 3 km

6.11.172 Six properties/groups have been identified within 3 km from the Proposed Development. Two of these are located within the Proposed Development Area and are financially involved with the Proposed Development, the remaining properties are scattered along the B709 to the west of the Proposed Developed Area.

6.11.173 The sensitivity of each property/settlement is judged to be **High** as residential receptors represent high value receptors with a high susceptibility to visual change owing to their fixed position. The visibility of the Proposed Development includes visibility from the property and its curtilage and immediate parts of the access road/driveway to each property.

6.11.174 Significant visual effects of **Major** adverse and **significant** have been predicted for 2 properties due to their proximity and open views from the gardens at the front of the houses where turbines would be viewed at a greater elevation resulting in a **Substantial** magnitude of change. Those marked with an * are financially involved:

- Property 1: Seathope*; and
- Property 2: Caberstongrains*;

6.11.175 Two properties are predicted to receive a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effect due to receiving views of three turbines and a blade tip of a fourth resulting in a **Slight** magnitude of change as follows:

- Property 4: Glentress; and
- Property 5: Colquhar.

6.11.176 No properties would receive significant effects associated with aviation lighting due to the steep viewing angle up to each of the lit turbines. Four properties (Seathope and Caberstongrains) are predicted to experience some reflection of the light on the turbine blade as it passes the vertical position, this would predominantly be experienced from outside the property for Seathope and Caberstongrains, and from both the property and garden of Glentress and Colquhar.

6.11.177 None of the properties assessed have been identified to be affected to such a degree that they would become 'widely regarded as an unattractive place where to live and/or the development is inescapably dominant or unpleasantly overwhelming', the approach adopted by Reporters in previous planning inquiries and set out in the guidance. This is due to screening from intervening landform which reduces the vertical extent of the proposed turbines, the small number of turbines visible of the overall development and distance.

6.11.178 Two properties (Property 3: Blackhopebyres & Blackhopebyres Steading and Property 6: The Common) are not predicted to receive an effect on account of screening by a combination of landform and forestry which would screen all views towards the Proposed Development resulting in a **Negligible** magnitude of change.

Settlements

Walkerburn

6.11.179 The ZTV on Figure 6.8 indicates that Walkerburn would receive limited theoretical visibility of 3-4 turbines occurring in the western side. This would be influenced by the forested steep slopes of Kirnie Law, and Cairn Hill located to the north which would reduce the visual extent from the settlement. Properties lying closer to the bridge of the River Tweed would receive views as they are positioned further back from the slope.

6.11.180 No aviation lights would be visible from this location due to the lower elevation of the settlement compared to the Proposed Development where due to the horizontal angle of view, aviation lighting would not be visible from the settlement.

6.11.181 Magnitude of change to the view would be small in scale and size occurring from a limited part of the overall settlement, affected by intervening landform and forestry, long term and reversible. Magnitude of change is considered **Slight**.

6.11.182 Overall effects to views from this settlement are considered to be **Moderate** adverse and not significant due to the limited part of the view affected from the settlement combined with screening from forestry during both construction and operation.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.183 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Innerleithen

6.11.184 The ZTV on Figure 6.8 indicates that theoretical visibility would be limited to the western side of the settlement comprising 1-6 turbines in the more elevated areas, decreasing as elevation reduces. Viewpoint 11 (Figure 6.27a-f, Volume 3b) represents views from the western side. This shows that foreground screening by Kirnie Law would limit the extent of turbines that would be visible above the skyline.

6.11.185 The aviation lighting ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) indicates that no aviation lights would be visible from the settlement.

6.11.186 Magnitude of change would be **Slight** as result of the small part of the overall view from the settlement that the Proposed Development would occupy, combined with screening by intervening landform forestry which reduces the number and extent of turbines seen. This would mainly occur from the more elevation properties located in the west of the settlement.

6.11.187 Overall effects would be **Moderate** adverse and **not significant** for the settlement due to the limited part of the settlement affected where 1-6 turbines would be visible partially above the ridgeline during both construction and operation.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.188 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Peebles

6.11.189 The ZTV on Figure 6.8 shows that the southern side of the town located to the south of the River Tweed is predicted to experience 1-8 turbines on the more elevated southern edge, and 1-6 turbines extending down to the River Tweed. Views from this location would be influenced by the built form of the settlement. Nevertheless, much of this area would receive views of turbines above the ridgeline located to the east. Viewpoint 9 (Figure 6.25a-g, Volume 3b) is representative of views from the south of Peebles.

6.11.190 The aviation lighting ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) indicates that up to 7 aviation lights would be visible from the part of the settlement. These would be experienced from a lit area and appear as a series of dim red lights in the distance in the context of sky glow from street lighting within the settlement and at Innerleithen.

6.11.191 Magnitude of change would be **Slight** as result of the small part of the overall view that the Proposed Development would occupy, combined with the small size and scale of the change to the view and distance. Changes would be long term and reversible.

6.11.192 Overall effects would be **Moderate** adverse and not significant for the overall settlement due to a combination of distance, surrounding built form, and the small part of the overall view affected from the settlement during both construction and operation.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.193 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Traquair

6.11.194 The ZTV on Figure 6.8 shows that all 8 turbines would be visible from the settlement. This would be influenced by boundary hedging and trees but is likely to be visible from a number of properties. Potential effects would be from the proposed turbines which would be partially visible above the ridgeline to the north as a result of screening by landform and forestry.

6.11.195 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that the aviation lighting on Turbines 4 and 5 would be visible from this location but at reduced intensity due to the angle being -3° to -4°. Artificial lighting at this settlement is limited to the properties themselves rather than street lighting, and skies would be perceived as darker. The two aviation lights would appear as small red dull faint lights which would be viewed through the sky glow from Innerleithen.

6.11.196 Magnitude of change is considered to be **Slight** due to the small size and scale of the change in view from a cluster of properties. The change would be long term and reversible.

6.11.197 The overall effect on the view from this settlement would be **Moderate** not significant as described above.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.198 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Peel

6.11.199 The ZTV on Figure 6.8 shows that Peel would experience 7-8 turbines in the southern extent of the settlement reducing to 4-6 as elevation decreases towards the River Tweed. This would be heavily influenced by the surrounding woodland as well as riparian woodland situated on the southern bank of the River Tweed. Viewpoint 14 (see Figure 6.30a-f, Volume 3b) provides a representation of views from the settlement. This shows that the proposed turbines would be visible but would be heavily filtered by foreground trees.

6.11.200 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that the aviation lighting on Turbines 1-4 and 6 would be visible from this location but at reduced intensity due to the angle being -3° to -4°. Artificial lighting at this settlement is limited to the properties themselves rather than street lighting, and skies would be perceived as darker. The two aviation lights would appear as small red faint lights to the north west where tree screening allows.

6.11.201 Magnitude of change is **Slight** on account of the small size and scale of the change occurring to the view, and as a result of screening. The change in view would be long term and reversible.

6.11.202 Overall effects from the settlement would be **Moderate** adverse and not significant on account of the reasons provided above.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.203 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Stow

6.11.204 The ZTV on Figure 6.8 shows that theoretical visibility would be limited from the settlement and mainly confined to the eastern elevated parts of the village where 3-4 turbines would be theoretically visible to the west breaking the skyline occupying a small part of the overall view obtained from the village.

6.11.205 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that the aviation lighting on Turbines 1-4 and 6 would be visible from this location but at reduced intensity due to the angle being -3° to -4°. Artificial lighting at this settlement is limited to the properties themselves rather than street lighting, and skies would be perceived as darker. The two aviation lights would appear as small red faint lights to the west with an intensity comparable to the brightest star in the sky.

6.11.206 Magnitude of change would be **Slight** due to the small size and scale of the change applying to a limited section of the eastern side of the village at a distance of 8.9 km. Changes to the view would be long term and reversible.

6.11.207 Overall effects would be **Moderate** adverse, and not significant.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.208 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be visible from the settlement. Scenario 3 wind farms include Greystone Knowe which would be located 7.0 km to the north west and break the skyline of the Gala Water valley and be more prominent than the Proposed Development. Both developments would be viewed successively but are not considered to increase the cumulative magnitude of change. Or level of effect.

Clovenfords

6.11.209 The ZTV on Figure 6.8 shows that theoretical visibility would be limited from the settlement and mainly confined to the eastern and southern periphery where the elevation is at its greatest. Viewpoint 21 (see Figure 6.37a-f, Volume 3b) shows a relatively low number of turbines would break the skyline to the north west and would be heavily filtered by woodland on Whytebank.

6.11.210 No aviation lights would be visible from the settlement.

6.11.211 Magnitude of change would be **Slight** due to the small in scale and size occupying a small extent of the overall view obtained and from a limited part of the settlement. Changes to the view would be long term and reversible.

6.11.212 Overall effects would be **Moderate** adverse, and not significant.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.213 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Sequential Routes

Roads

A7 Road

6.11.214 The value of views and susceptibility are considered to be Medium overall for this road, resulting in a **Medium** sensitivity overall.

6.11.215 Figure 6.10a: Sequential Route ZTV - A7 (Volume 3b) shows the extent of theoretical visibility predicted of the Proposed Development. This shows theoretical visibility of 1-8 turbines occurring on short sections along the route to the south of Selkirk, north of Galashiels, at Stow and Gorebridge. This would range at distances of 8.4-21.7 km and influenced by a combination of screening by landform, forestry and built form from a road with a 60-mph speed limit.

6.11.216 Magnitude of change would be **Slight** to **Negligible** on account of the small size and scale of the change occurring over short distances and distance from the Proposed Development. Changes would be long term and reversible.

6.11.217 Overall effects for the A7 road would be **Minor** adverse and not significant.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.218 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible briefly from short sections of the road travelling in either direction, but this would be limited due to the road being located within a valley where the wind farms would be further back.

The addition of the Proposed Development would be similar, in that it would be located further to the west and be briefly seen breaking the skyline to the west. It is not considered that this would increase the magnitude of change assessed for Scenario 1.

A72 Road

6.11.219 Value and susceptibility of the road are considered to be High on account of the scenic quality of the section of the road passing through the Tweed Valley. Overall sensitivity is **High**.

6.11.220 The ZTV shown on Figure 6.10b indicates that theoretical visibility would be limited along the route confined to short sections to the west of Peebles, the western part of Innerleithen, western side of Walkerburn, a 2 km section between Holylee and Thornielee, north of Peel, south of Clovenfords and at Galashiels. This would range between 1-8 turbines and would be influenced by forestry on the hillsides to the north of the Tweed Valley. The wireline shown for Viewpoint 10 (Figure 6.26a-f) represents views from the longest stretch of the road affected east of Holylee. This shows the proposed turbines above the ridgeline to the north and would be visible when travelling in a westerly direction, albeit influenced by adjacent trees and forestry for approximately 2 km.

6.11.221 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that the aviation lighting on Turbines 6-8 would be theoretically visible from a short section of road south of Clovenfords and on the eastern side of Galashiels but at reduced intensity due to the angle being -3° to -4°. This route would experience artificial lighting from vehicles and adjacent properties and the Proposed Development would appear as faint red lights above the valley comparable to car brake lights within 5 km and the brightest star in the sky beyond. This would be heavily influenced by woodland within the valley and on the forested sides and viewed within the context of car headlights and other artificial light within the valley.

6.11.222 The size and scale of the change would be small occurring on a short section of the road which has a 60-mph speed limit. Overall, magnitude of change would be **Slight** to **Negligible** for the entire route due to the very limited visibility experienced. Changes to view would be long term and reversible.

6.11.223 A locally **Moderate** adverse not significant effect is predicted for a short section (2 km) between Holylee and Thornielee, due to face-on views and proximity to the Proposed Development. Thereafter, reducing to **Minor** adverse and **Negligible** levels as distance increases and screening from forestry and woodland becomes more widespread.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.224 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

B709 Road

6.11.225 Sensitivity for the road is considered to be High on account of its recreational use where both value and susceptibility are considered to be **High**.

6.11.226 The majority of operational wind farms are set back from this route and views from it are largely unaffected.

6.11.227 The ZTV shown on Figure 6.10c shows that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would be limited across the whole route occurring west of Turner Cleuch Law, between Traquair and the east of Blake Muir covering a distance of 6.6 km, to the west of the Proposed Development at Colquhar, Glentress extending northwards to Dewar Hill (see Figures 6.40c-f for context) and Viewpoints 1 and 6 (Figures 6.17a-f and 6.22a-f respectively).

6.11.228 Viewpoint 1 at Dewar Gill (Figure 6.17a-f) and the residential wirelines taken from properties close to the road north of Innerleithen show that the Proposed Development would be partially screened by landform but would periodically be visible for short sections. Viewpoint 6 close to Traquair (Figure 6.22a-f) represents the section of road that would be affected the most, where all 8 turbines would be visible on the ridgeline to the north, occupying a small part of the overall view, but prominent in the direction of travel.

6.11.229 The aviation lighting ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that views of aviation lighting would be limited to the area extending southwards from Traquair described above. From this section, all 8 turbine lights would be visible at a reduced intensity of angles of -2° to -3° and -3 to -4° degrees at distances of 6.6-11.9 km. The lights would appear as faint red lights experienced through the sky glow from Innerleithen.

6.11.230 Magnitude of change would be **Moderate** for the section of road extending south from Traquair due to the extent of the Proposed Development viewed on the ridgeline to the north. Overall, magnitude is considered to be **Minor** to **Negligible** due to the very limited extent of theoretical visibility predicted. The change in view would be long term and reversible.

6.11.231 A localised **Moderate** effect would occur for the section south of Traquair where open views can be obtained of the Proposed Development on the ridgeline above where it would be a prominent feature. Thereafter, reducing to **Minor** to **Negligible** levels elsewhere along the route as distance increases and views are directed along the valley by adjacent landform.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.232 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

B6362 Road

6.11.233 Sensitivity for the road is considered to be High on account of its recreational use where both value and susceptibility are considered to be **High**.

6.11.234 The ZTV on Figure 6.10d shows that the western side of the road between Lauder Common and Stow would receive views of all 8 turbines. Viewpoint 2 (Figure 6.18a-f) demonstrates the type of view that would occur. This shows turbines breaking the ridgeline to the south west and would be prominent whilst occupying a small part of the overall view.

6.11.235 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that all 8 turbine lights would be experienced at reduced intensity angles of -1° to -2° and -2° to -3°. These would appear as 8 faint red lights to the south west.

6.11.236 Magnitude of change is **Slight** due to distance and the small extent that the Proposed Development would occupy of the overall view. The would-be long term and reversible.

6.11.237 Overall effects for the route are **Moderate** adverse not significant due to distance from the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.238 Views of Scenario 3 wind farms would be limited to Greystone Knowe which would be seen to the north west and would be more prominent due to its closer proximity and number of turbines. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would increase the extent of turbines seen in combination with Greystone Knowe., although both developments would appear quite separate due to the distance and angle of view. There would be a slight increase to the magnitude of change due to viewing the Proposed Development alongside Greystone Knowe which would result in visibility of more wind turbines viewed from this location as well as an increase in aviation lights from both schemes. This would increase the scale and size of the change, but at a distance of 11.8 km occupying a small part of the overall view. It is not considered that it would increase the effect to a Major level.

B7062 Road

6.11.239 Sensitivity for the road is considered to be High on account of its recreational use where both value and susceptibility are considered to be **High**.

6.11.240 The ZTV on Figure 6.10e shows that theoretical visibility would be limited to a 5.6 km section located directly to the east of Peebles where 1-2 turbines are predicted to be visible, and a section of 1.9 km to the west of Traquair House where 1-8 are predicted to be visible. Both of the sections affected would be influenced by intervening woodland which would reduce the extent of the view, especially in proximity to Traquair House.

6.11.241 The aviation lighting ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that theoretical visibility of aviation lights would be very limited to a very short section close to Traquair House where aviation lights mounted on Turbines 4, 5 and 7 would be visible at a reduced intensity angle of -3° to -4°.

6.11.242 Magnitude of change is considered to be **Slight** on account of the short section of road affected, small size and scale of the change in view and influence of screening. This would be long term and reversible.

6.11.243 Overall effects from the road would be **Minor** adverse and not significant.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.244 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Minor Road South of the River Tweed

6.11.245 Sensitivity is considered to be **High** as the road is popular recreationally by walkers and cyclists leading to a **High-**value and susceptibility.

6.11.246 The ZTV on Figure 6.10f shows that the road would experience views of the Proposed Development on a section located to the east of Innerleithen and a continuous section south east of Walkerburn to Peel. Views from the road would alternate between open to heavily filtered by adjacent riparian woodland.

6.11.247 Viewpoint 12 (Figure 6.28a-f) and Viewpoint 14 (Figure 6.30a-f) represent the type of view experienced. This shows turbines above the skyline to the north which would be prominent but occupy a small part of the overall view experienced from this road.

6.11.248 The aviation lighting ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows short sections of theoretical visibility to the east of Elibank Craig to Peel where lighting intensity would be at an angle of -3° to -4° of 1-6 turbines. However, this section of road is influenced by intervening woodland between the river and road and would reduce actual visibility.

6.11.249 Magnitude of change is **Slight** due to the size and scale of the change to the overall view experienced. This would be long term and reversible.

6.11.250 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effect as for the reasons described in the assessment of Viewpoint 12.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.251 No Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be visible from the settlement.

Walking Routes

Southern Upland Way

6.11.252 The trail is popular with walkers or runners on day trips, completing sections or the entire trail. Part of the trail passes through the Tweedsmuir Uplands, Tweed Valley and Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA and value is considered High. Susceptibility is also considered to be High as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

6.11.253 The ZTV shown on Figure 6.10g indicates long sections of the SUW predicted to receive theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. The main area of concern is a section extending from Deuchar Law to Traquair where the Proposed Development would appear in face-on views when travelling northwards towards Innerleithen. Viewpoint 23 (Figure 6.39a-f) on Blake Muir represents a typical view of the proposed turbines from this section of path. From this location, all 8 turbines can be viewed to the north east above the ridgeline at Innerleithen where they would be a prominent feature.

6.11.254 Further sections are also predicted to receive theoretical visibility including the section of the SUW running east to west encompassing the following viewpoints:

- Viewpoint 17: Minch Moor (Figures 6.33a-g); and
- Viewpoint 19: Three Brethen (Figures 6.35a-f).;

6.11.255 From here, all 8 turbines would be visible in views to the north where they would appear above the ridgeline and Innerleithen.

6.11.256 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) also shows that theoretical visibility of aviation lights would be observed from this section as well as Minch Moor and Three Brethen where light intensities would be experienced at angles of -1° to -2° (750 candela in poor visibility, and 75 candela in clear visibility). From here all 8 lights would be observed as faint red lights viewed through the skyglow from Innerleithen streetlights.

6.11.257 Magnitude of change is considered to be **Moderate** on account of the turbines being prominent in views between Blake Muir and Traquair, as well as from sections of the SUW in the vicinity of Minch Moor and Three Brethren. This would be long term and reversible.

6.11.258 This would result in a **Major-moderate** adverse significant effect for a High sensitivity receptor combined with a Moderate magnitude.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.259 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located close to the SUW and would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.260 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe to the north west and would be perceived beyond the Proposed Development from some elevated areas partially screened by landform. This would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the north; however, this would occupy a small part of the overall landscape and set further away from the SUW and partially screened by landform. It is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

Cross Border Drove Road

6.11.261 The Cross Border Drove Road trail is popular with walkers or runners on day trips, completing sections or the entire trail. Part of the trail passes through the Tweed Valley and Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA as well as following sections of the SUW across Minch Moor. Value is considered High as well as susceptibility as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

6.11.262 The ZTV on Figure 6.10h shows theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development occurring in several sections most notably north west of Hawick, as it crosses Minch Moor, south east and north west of Peebles and more distant views to the north west and south east of West Linton. The main area of concern has previously been discussed with regard to the SUW where the footpaths use the same right of way at Minch Moor , Traquair and crosses Kailzie Hill.

6.11.263 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) also shows that theoretical visibility of aviation lights would be observed from this section as well as Minch Moor and Three Brethren where light intensities would be experienced at angles of -1° to -2° (750 candela in poor visibility, and 75 candela in clear visibility). From here all 8 lights would be observed as faint red lights viewed through the skyglow from Innerleithen streetlights.

6.11.264 Magnitude of change is considered to be **Moderate** on account of the turbines being prominent in views from sections in the vicinity of Minch Moor and Three Brethren. This would be long term and reversible.

6.11.265 This would result in a **Major-moderate** adverse significant effect for a High sensitivity receptor combined with a Moderate magnitude.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.266 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located close to the route and would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

6.11.267 One Scenario 3 wind farm, Greystone Knowe to the north west and would be perceived beyond the Proposed Development from some elevated areas partially screened by landform. This would increase the extent of turbines experienced to the north; however, this would occupy a small part of the overall landscape and set further away from the route. It is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would increase the magnitude of change or effects predicted for Scenario 1.

Core Path No.42 – Stow – Blackhaugh

6.11.268 This Core Path is used by walkers , value and susceptibility are considered to be High as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

6.11.269 The ZTV shown on Figure 6.10i shows theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development on the side of Scroof Hill, between Maiden Law and Great Law, and from a section extending from the Oak Burn to Craig Head. From here 1-8 turbines would be visible depending on elevation. Viewpoint 3 (Figure 6.19a-f, Volume 3b) represents the views from the worst affected section looking north west.

6.11.270 The aviation ZTV (Figure 6.4: ZTV of Aviation Lighting (Worst Case)) shows that theoretical visibility of the aviation lights would be experienced at an angle of 3° to -4° (40 candela in poor visibility, and 4 candela in good visibility) between Craig Head and Black Law of turbines 3, 4 and 7.

6.11.271 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** due to the small extent of the Proposed Development would occupy in the view. This would be long term and reversible.

6.11.272 A **Moderate** adverse not significant effect is predicted for this LCT for the reasons provided above.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.273 Views of Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be distant features to the south. One Scenario 3 site, Greystone Knowe would be seen in the vicinity of Stow and would be sequentially viewed alongside the Proposed Development. Both sites would be visible from short sections of the core path and the size and scale of the change would be small and not alter the effects assessed for Scenario 1.

Core Path No.161 – Walkerburn – Priesthope

6.11.274 This Core Path is used by walkers ,value is considered to be High. Susceptibility is also considered to be High as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

6.11.275 The ZTV on Figure 6.9c shows that much of the route would be able to see the proposed turbines although surrounding forestry would limit this visibility whilst present in the landscape varying between 5-8 turbines depending on elevation. Viewpoint 5 (Figure 6.21a-f, Volume 3b) represents the views from the worst affected section looking north east.

6.11.276 Magnitude of change would be **Substantial** due to the close views (c.1 km at Priesthope summit from nearest turbine) experienced combined with partial screening by foreground landform and forestry, reducing to **Moderate** overall. This would be long term and reversible.

6.11.277 A **Major** significant effect is predicted for a short section although it is acknowledged from a short section at the highest point, a **Major-moderate** significant effect would occur overall.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.278 Views of Scenario 2 and 3 wind farms would be distant features to the south and are not considered to increase the effects assessed for Scenario 1.

Core Path No. 163: Walkerburn – Minch Moor

6.11.279 This Core Path is used by walkers and value is considered to be High. Susceptibility is also considered to be High as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

6.11.280 The ZTV on Figure 6.9c shows that a section within the floodplain directly to the south of Walkerburn, and a section of the path, and a section in the vicinity of Glenmead would be able to see the proposed turbines although surrounding forestry would limit this visibility whilst present in the landscape varying between 1-8 turbines depending on elevation when travelling in a north direction.

6.11.281 Magnitude of change would be **Substantial** due to the close views experienced combined with partial screening by foreground landform and forestry which would reduce the magnitude to **Moderate** levels overall. This would be long term and reversible.

6.11.282 A **Major significant** effect is predicted where open views can be obtained, reducing to **Moderate** and significant due to partial screening by forestry..

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.283 No Scenario 2 or 3 wind farms would be located close to the route and would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

Core Path No. 181 - Innerleithen – Walkerburn

6.11.284 This Core Path is popular with walkers or runners and value is considered to be High. Susceptibility is also considered to be High as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape. Overall visual sensitivity is **High**.

6.11.285 The ZTV on Figure 6.9c shows that there would be limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development mainly occurring at Walkerburn and Innerleithen covering short sections.

6.11.286 Magnitude of change would be **Slight** due to the limited extent of the path affected and screening by a combination of landform and forestry to the north.

6.11.287 A **Moderate** not significant effect is predicted overall.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.288 No Scenario 2 wind farms would be located close to the route and would not alter the assessment for Scenario 1 above.

Hill Tops

6.11.289 Hill tops are all considered to have a **High** sensitivity on account of a High value and susceptibility as walkers' attention will be focussed on the views of the surrounding landscape.

6.11.290 As detailed in the baseline, there are a large number of hill summits located within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit and to the south of the Tweed Valley. For the vast majority of these, open views of all 8 turbines would be seen alongside the supporting infrastructure. As distance increases, foreground landform would provide some screening to the base of the towers reducing their vertical prominence as well as screening the supporting infrastructure.

6.11.291 Aviation lights would be viewed at 200 ca (clear visibility) and be comparable to a car brake light for summits within 5 km of the Proposed Development, and a star in the sky beyond this, as distance increases.

6.11.292 Magnitude of change would vary between **Substantial** depending on the extent of the Proposed Development seen and proximity, in particular from summits in the Moorfoot Hills where hill tops are generally open and not influenced by forestry. This would typically occur but not exclusively to summits within 5 km, reducing with distance to Moderate levels and long-term during operation, but reversible.

6.11.293 This would result in **Major** adverse and **significant** effect within 5 km where the changes would be prominent, reducing with distance to **Moderate** and significant levels where the Proposed Development occupies a smaller extent of the view and the vertical extent reduces.

Cumulative Assessment

6.11.294 Both Scenario 2 and 3 developments would be visible from the hills noted in the baseline, for the majority these would be set further back , the exception being Greystone Knowe which is located in the north part of the Moorfoot Hills. The introduction of the Proposed Development would result in combined and successive visibility of both developments mainly occurring on summits located within the Moorfoots rather than the surrounding area due to screening by landform. There would be a slight increase in magnitude of change as a result, but this would not affect the levels assessed for Scenario 1 which is at the higher levels of significance.

6.12 SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE & VISUAL EFFECTS

Landscape Character

Proposed Development Area

6.12.1 The Proposed Development would be located entirely within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland. Overall sensitivity for the Proposed Development Area is considered Medium on account of the lack of any formal designation, combined with the quality of the proposed site and importance as a backdrop to the Tweed Valley.

6.12.2 The construction and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development would result in ground disturbance operations, new access tracks, crane pad hardstandings, installation of eight turbines followed by their removal during decommissioning and general reinstatement works, together with associated vehicular and personnel movements on site. Such operations would result in direct impacts on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area. This will include ground vegetation and soil removal and the introduction of new elements into the semi-improved pasture and moorland context.

6.12.3 It is considered the magnitude of change on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area would be **Substantial**, due to the size and scale of proposed changes occurring over a short geographical area and period of time. This results in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area during the construction and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Development.

6.12.4 Following reinstatement post construction, the Proposed Development Area would enter the operational stage. The nature of the effects on the Proposed Development Area would be direct, long term during the operational life of the Proposed Development, and reversible beyond this period due to decommissioning. This would arise from the siting of 8 operational turbines, anemometry mast, substation/energy storage area and access tracks located within a large-scale plateau landscape.

6.12.5 Once remedial works have been completed, there would be a reduction in activity on site centred around maintenance activities associated with operational wind turbines.

6.12.6 The magnitude of change on the landscape fabric of the site would remain **Substantial**, resulting from the size and scale of proposed change including 8 operational wind turbines and associated infrastructure that would be long term and reversible at the end of the operational stage. This would result in a **Major** adverse **significant** effect on the landscape fabric of the Proposed Development Area during the operational stage of the Proposed Development.

Wider Landscape Character

6.12.7 Within the wider study area, a total of 59 LCTs were identified within 45 km from the Proposed Development and initially assessed (see Appendix 6.2). This identified 6 LCTs for more detailed assessment as follows:

- LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland;
- LCT 91: Plateau Grassland – Borders;
- LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders;
- LCT 95: Southern Uplands – Borders;
- LCT 103: Undulating Upland Fringe; and
- LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland.

6.12.8 Of these, the following 3 were assessed as potentially receiving significant effects as follows:

- LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland;
- LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest - Borders; and
- LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland.

LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland

6.12.9 As noted, the Proposed Development Area would be located entirely within the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland. This unit comprises a large geographical area encompassing the Moorfoot Hills and would also receive indirect effects beyond the Proposed Development Area.

6.12.10 This would result in a substantial change in terms of the perceptual experience during both construction and operational periods, mainly occurring within the immediate landscape surrounding the Proposed Development Area extending to approximately 5 km from the Proposed Development. Thereafter, becoming less widespread and limited to hill summits and the upper slopes facing the Proposed Development Area. In these locations, there would be an increase in activity as the supporting infrastructure is constructed followed by the installation of turbines. This would contrast with the areas current land use, perception of remoteness, and activity levels but will not affect the physical landscape in terms of its plateau landform and moorland landcover beyond the Proposed Development Area.

6.12.11 Magnitude of change for the Moorfoot Plateau Unit of LCT 90: Dissected Plateau Moorland would be **Substantial**, reducing with distance to the north, east and west to **Moderate** and **Slight** where the turbines would be less prominent. This would be experienced within an open large-scale landscape that includes operational wind farms located both within the unit as well as neighbouring LCTs.

6.12.12 This would result in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect as a result of the LCTs **High** sensitivity combined with proximity and extent of theoretical visibility predicted across the open plateau landscape, diminishing with distance to non-significant levels.

LCT 93: Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest – Borders

6.12.13 Overall sensitivity is **High** due to the LCT being designated at a local level for its scenic quality although it is considered that the characteristics of the LCT could accommodate the type of development proposed.

6.12.14 During construction and operational phases, effects on this LCT would arise from the siting of 8 operational turbines, anemometry mast, substation/energy storage area and access tracks located within a large-scale plateau landscape. These would be long term during the operational life of the Proposed Development, and reversible beyond this period due to decommissioning.

6.12.15 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the close proximity to the Proposed Development, indirect nature of the change and distance involved where it is not considered to alter the key characteristics of this LCT during both construction and operation. This would be long term and reversible.

6.12.16 This would result in a **Major-moderate** adverse and **significant** effect due to the **High** sensitivity of the LCT combined with proximity from the Proposed Development, reducing to **Moderate** and **Minor** and **not significant** levels as distance increases and the influence of scattered forests provides a degree of partial screening.

LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland

6.12.17 Sensitivity for LCT 116: Upland Valley with Woodland is **High** and includes part of the Upper Tweeddale NSA, Traquair House GDL, and is recognised at a local level for its scenic quality and small-scale characteristics.

6.12.18 During construction and operational phases, effects on this LCT would arise from the siting of 8 operational turbines, anemometry mast, substation/energy storage area and access tracks located within a large-scale plateau landscape. These would be long term during the operational life of the Proposed Development, and reversible beyond this period due to decommissioning.

6.12.19 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** for areas near the Proposed Development on the ridgeline to the south of the Proposed Development, and **Low** elsewhere due to partial and full screening by landform, forestry and woodland. Changes occurring would be short term during construction, and long-term during operation, and reversible.

6.12.20 This would result in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect directly to the south occupying the northern ridgeline, and **Moderate** adverse and **significant** elsewhere due to theoretical visibility occurring mainly on the valley sides rather than the floor where the A72 road and settlements are situated, reducing with distance to non-significant levels.

Protected & Designated Landscapes

6.12.21 The Proposed Development would not be located within any national designation but is located 12.4 km to the north east of the Upper Tweeddale NSA and 5.3 km to the north of Traquair House GDL.

Upper Tweeddale NSA

6.12.22 The Upper Tweeddale NSA has a **High** sensitivity to change on account of its national level designation.

6.12.23 The Proposed Development would introduce tall man-made features in the panoramic views beyond the NSA boundary where 1-8 turbines are predicted to be theoretically visible at distances of 12.4 – 28.1 km. The areas affected comprise open hill sides and forestry plantations.

6.12.24 The construction and operational phases would be perceived from the locations noted above and include the installation of the proposed turbines as well as part of the supporting infrastructure connecting the turbines along the ridgeline including short sections of access track, substation, and meteorological mast where they would form distant features.

6.12.25 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change occurring, combined with the limited extent of theoretical visibility predicted within the NSA, distance from the Proposed Development and limited change to the special qualities noted.

6.12.26 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and is not considered to be significant due to a combination of limited theoretical visibility within the NSA, distance from the Proposed Development and only one of special qualities being affected during construction which would be short-term and reversible.

Traquair GDL

6.12.27 Sensitivity for the Traquair House GDL is **High** due to its inclusion in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes administered by HES.

6.12.28 The Proposed Development would introduce a new feature experienced out with the designation that would partially break the skyline and include Turbines 2, 3 and 6 at hub height and the blade tips of Turbines 1, 5 and 7 barely perceptible above the forested hill summits. However, it is not considered that the introduction of the Proposed Development would alter the experience of landscape features within the GDL due to a combination of woodland screening and the limited extent of the Proposed Development experienced.

6.12.29 During construction and operation, the size and scale of the change would be small covering a limited part of the policies as a result of screening by woodland. Magnitude of change is **Slight**, short-term during construction, and long-term during operation, and reversible.

6.12.30 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect due to the **High** sensitivity of the receptor, but not considered significant due to the limited part of the overall GDL affected due to screening by woodland during both construction and operation.

6.12.31 Three local level designations have been assessed as follows:

- Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA;
- Tweed Valley SLA; and
- Tweed, Ettrick & Yarrow SLAs.

6.12.32 Overall sensitivity for each of the SLA is considered **High** on account of their local level designated status.

Tweedsmuir Uplands SLA

6.12.33 All 8 turbines would be perceived mainly from elevated areas within the SLA with the supporting infrastructure being less noticeable once restoration works have been completed. This would introduce turbines into an area currently unaffected in an adjacent SLA but would have a limited effect on the special qualities noted in the baseline which tend to focus on features within the SLA.

6.12.34 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Slight** on account of the indirect nature of the change and distance involved where it is not considered to alter the special qualities of the SLA. This would be short-term and reversible.

6.12.35 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and significant effect due to the **High** sensitivity combined with extent of theoretical visibility predicted and proximity to the Proposed Development.

Tweed Valley SLA

6.12.36 The construction and operational phases would be perceived as close features located along the ridgeline to the north and affect the special qualities. However, this would be confined to the valley sides, mainly the southern side of the Tweed Valley facing the Proposed Development and affect an area smaller than predicted due to the extent of forestry and woodland cover.

6.12.37 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the close distance, indirect nature of the change, and partial screening by landform and forestry. This would mainly occur in the more elevated parts of the valley such as valley sides, whilst the valley floor would remain largely unaffected due to screening by landform and forestry. This would be short-term and reversible.

6.12.38 This would result in a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effect due to the **High** sensitivity combined with extent of theoretical visibility predicted and proximity to the Proposed Development.

Tweed, Ettrick & Yarrow Confluences SLA

6.12.39 All 8 turbines would be perceived from this SLA along the ridgeline during construction and operational phases with the supporting infrastructure being less noticeable once restoration works have been completed. This would introduce turbines into an area currently unaffected in an adjacent SLA but would not affect the special qualities noted in the baseline.

6.12.40 Magnitude of change is predicted to be **Moderate** on account of the close proximity to the Proposed Development, indirect nature of the change and limited extent of the SLA predicted to receive theoretical visibility This would be short-term and reversible.

6.12.41 This would result in a **Major-moderate** adverse **significant** effect due to the High sensitivity combined with extent of theoretical visibility predicted and proximity to the Proposed Development.

Visual Amenity

Viewpoints

6.12.42 Of the 23 selected viewpoints that were identified to represent the general visual amenity throughout the study area, a total of 4 viewpoints, located between 1.2 – 4.0 km from the Proposed Development would receive very close views of the proposed turbines and supporting infrastructure during both construction and operation. These viewpoints have a **High** sensitivity due to the viewpoint locations being hill summits popular with walkers would result in a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect. Significant viewpoints include the following:

- Viewpoint 3: Core Path 41 near Scroof Hill;
- Viewpoint 5: Priesthope Hill;
- Viewpoint 8: Lee Pen; and
- Viewpoint 22: Cairn Hill Cairn.

6.12.43 A total of 11 were assessed as receiving a **Moderate** adverse and significant effect. All of these have a **High** sensitivity due to their recreational use and location within national and local level landscape designations. Covering distances between 4.8 – 13.9 km from the Proposed Development Area, the viewpoints are located to the south and west where they would obtain views of the proposed turbines on the skyline above the Tweed Valley. The 8 turbines would occupy a small part of the overall view resulting in a **Slight** magnitude of change All viewpoints are considered to be significant on account of their proximity to the Proposed Development which would form a new and prominent feature within the view and include as follows:

- Viewpoint 2: Lauder Common;
- Viewpoint 4: The Meldons;
- Viewpoint 6: The Sware;
- Viewpoint 9: Bonnington Road, Peebles;
- Viewpoint 10: A72, East of Holylee (wireline only);
- Viewpoint 12: Minor Road/NCR1 (The Batta);
- Viewpoint 15: Hundleshope Heights;
- Viewpoint 16: SUW/B709 near Kirkhouse;
- Viewpoint 17: SUW, Minch Moor;
- Viewpoint 19: Three Brethren; and
- Viewpoint 23: Blake Muir.

6.12.44 The remaining 8 viewpoints located between 4.1 and 18.1 km, were all assessed as receiving a **Minor** adverse and not significant effect. From these locations, the proposed turbines and supporting infrastructure would occupy a small part of the overall view from each viewpoint due to a combination of factors including screening by landform and forestry, distance, and in some cases where the receptor is assessed as having a **Medium** sensitivity, combined with a **Slight** magnitude of change as follows:

- Viewpoint 1: Dewar Gill;
- Viewpoint 7: A7 road, near Buckholm;
- Viewpoint 11: Innerleithen, car park;
- Viewpoint 13: Traquair House;
- Viewpoint 14: Peel;
- Viewpoint 18: Eildon Hills;
- Viewpoint 20: Selkirk Common; and
- Viewpoint 21: Clovenfords.

6.12.45 A total of 10 viewpoints covering distances between 4.8 – 13.9 km from the Proposed Development, located to the east and south of the Proposed Development would obtain views of the proposed turbines on the skyline above the Tweed Valley. The 8 turbines would occupy a small part of the overall view, and partial screening of the bottom sections of the towers as well as the supporting infrastructure would lead to a **Low** magnitude of change and a **Moderate** level effect and **significant** due to their **High** sensitivity.

Residential Receptors

6.12.46 Six properties were identified within 3 km from the Proposed Development, none of the properties considered in the RVAA were identified as receiving an effect to the extent that the Proposed Development would be overbearing and result in it being an unattractive place to live.

6.12.47 Of the six residential properties assessed, four are predicted to receive a significant visual effect. Two of these are located within the Proposed Development Area and are financially involved with the Proposed Development as follows:

- Seathope;
- Caberstongrains.

6.12.48 Both properties, would receive a **Major** adverse and **significant** effect due to views of the proposed turbines from the front gardens and approach to the property rather than from within the property.

6.12.49 A further two properties were assessed as having a **Moderate** adverse and **significant** effect:

- Glentress; and
- Colquhar.

6.12.50 This is due to views from the rear of the property including the gardens where 3-4 turbines would be seen at a distance of 2.5 km. This would result in a **Low** magnitude of change.

6.12.51 Two properties at Blackhopebyres and a property, The Commons were assessed as having a **Negligible** effect on account of screening from landform and forestry.

Settlements

6.12.52 A total of 7 settlements were assessed as follows:

- Walkerburn;
- Innerleithen;
- Peebles;
- Traquair;
- Peel;
- Stow; and
- Clovenfords.

6.12.53 All settlements are assessed as having a **High** sensitivity of change.

6.12.54 None of the settlements assessed were considered to receive significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development. This is due to their location within the surrounding valleys where views are partially contained by landform, combined with the forested nature of valley sides, built form within the settlement and trees within the valley. This leads to a **Slight** magnitude of change which would be short term during construction, and long-term during operation, and reversible.

6.12.55 This results in a **Moderate** adverse and not significant effect due to the small part of each settlement affected, combined with screening and distance from the Proposed Development.

Routes

6.12.56 Of the 12 route receptors assessed including the road routes, SUW, Cross Border Drove Road and Core Paths within 5 km of the Proposed Development, the following 5 were predicted to receive a significant effect:

- **Minor road on the southern bank of the River Tweed**: experiences close views of the Proposed Development above the ridgeline to the north;
- **Southern Upland Way**: Due to face-on views for a section between Traquair and Blake Muir, as well as between Traquair and Three Brethren including Minch Moor;
- **Cross Border Drove Road**: obtains same level of effects where the route follows the SUW; and
- **Core Paths No 161 & 163**: would receive close face-on views of the Proposed Development within 5 km.

6.12.57 Magnitude of change is considered to be **Moderate** on account of the turbines being prominent in views due to proximity from the Proposed Development and openness of the views.

6.12.58 This would result in a **Major** and **Major-moderate** adverse **significant** effect for the sections described above.

6.12.59 The remaining route receptors considered were assessed as not receiving a significant effect on account of the degree of screening of views occurring resulting in lower levels of magnitude of change.

Cumulative

6.12.60 Cumulative Scenario 2 sites would be located further away from the receptors assessed and the addition of the Proposed Development would not lead to a change to Scenario 1 effects predicted.

6.12.61 Scenario 3 wind farms would include Greystone Knowe located within 5.6 km to the north east. This would be separated from the Proposed Development by the land mass of the Moorfoot Hills providing some visual separation. Nevertheless, both developments would be visible from the south with the Proposed Development turbines being more prominent due to their higher elevation. Only the Dissected Plateau Moorland LCT would receive an increase in effects because of the Proposed Development and Greystone Knowe being located within the same LCT.

6.13 CONCLUSION

6.13.1 Overall, the scale and characteristics of the receiving landscape is considered appropriate to accommodate the type of development proposed. Significant effects have been identified although these are relatively limited given the scale and size of the Proposed Development. This includes the upper slopes of the Tweed Valley, hill tops to the north, east and south, short sections of minor roads and longer sections of footpaths within the area including the Southern Upland Way.

6.13.2 Significant landscape effects would be restricted to 3 LCTs including the host LCT and the two closest LCTs located to the east and south covering the Tweed Valley (valley sides) and Southern Uplands to the south. This would affect a small part of the overall 45 km study area where 55 LCTs would receive a non-significant or no change to their key characteristics as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.13.3 The majority of significant visual effects are identified as typically occurring within approximately 15 km from the nearest proposed turbine. This is mainly from hill tops and walking routes where the Proposed Development will appear in open views.

6.13.4 Cumulative effects would arise mainly from the addition of the Proposed Development in combination with the Greystone Knowe (Scenario 3) development. This would increase the concentration of turbines in the Dissected Plateau Moorland LCT as a result of two operational wind farms and an application site being located within the same LCT.

6.13.5 This LVIA has considered landscape and visual receptors within a 45 km study area and established that there would be some significant effects to both landscape and visual receptors affecting a relatively small number of landscape and visual receptors situated within a localised area surrounding the Proposed Development.