



# Rothes III Wind Farm

S36C APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED TIP  
HEIGHT INCREASE FOR 3 TURBINES  
Landscape and Visual Assessment

July 2024

APPENDIX 2C



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## **APPENDIX 1**

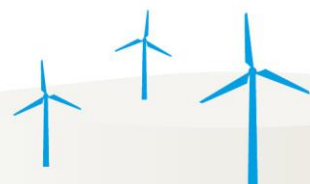
Landscape character assessment

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## APPENDIX 1

### Landscape character assessment

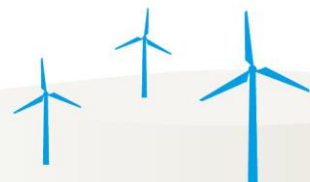


Table A1.1

2017 MWELCS	2020 MWELSS / NatureScot Reference	MWELSS / NatureScot Landscape Receptor Name	Consented Development (at Operation)	Proposal
		The Proposed Development Area	<b>Significant (major/moderate)</b>	Effects remain as previously assessed for the Consented Development.
LCT10	10 / 290	Upland Moorland and Forestry (within 4km)	<b>Significant (major)</b>	Effects remain as previously assessed for the Consented Development.
		Upland Moorland and Forestry (beyond 4km)	<b>Significant (moderate)</b>	Effects remain as previously assessed for the Consented Development.
LCT4	3 / 284	Rolling Coastal Farmland	Not significant (moderate/minor)	Very little additional visibility is indicated on the ZTV. Where this occurs, to the eastern and southern edges of Nairn the distance of over 25km negates any material change which could occur. Viewpoints 1 and 2 provide an indication of the nature of change to the appearance of the array as a result of the Proposal. At these distances, generally beyond 10km, the effects remain as previously assessed for the Consented Development.
LCT5a	4 / 285	Rolling Farmlands and Forests	Not significant (moderate/minor)	There is very limited additional visibility indicated on the ZTV. Viewpoints 1, 2 and 9 indicate that the Proposal would potentially increase the extent of Rothes III turbines beyond the horizon from this LCT but that these would appear concurrent with both those of the wider Rothes III array and set beyond the existing Rothes I and II wind farms. The resulting change is not considered to alter the conclusions previously assessed for the Consented Development.

LCT7	6 / 287	Broad Farmed Valley (within 8km)	<b>Significant (major/moderate)</b>	Effects remain as previously assessed for the Consented Development.
		Broad Farmed Valley (beyond 8km)	Not significant (minor/negligible)	There is very limited additional visibility indicated on the ZTV. Viewpoint 18 is representative of views towards the site from parts of this LCT beyond 8km of the site. The Proposal would potentially increase the extent of Rothes III turbines beyond the horizon from this LCT but that these would appear concurrent with both those of the wider Rothes III array.
LCT9	12 / 292	Rolling Forested Hills	Not significant (minor/negligible)	There is almost no additional visibility indicated within this LCT. Viewpoint 4 is representative of views from within this LCT and demonstrates that the position of the three turbines within the north-western part of the array would little alter the extent of the array seen from areas of this LCT which lie to the east of the site.
	n/a / 289	Upland Farmed Valleys		
LCT11	11 / 291	Open Rolling Upland	Not significant (minor/negligible)	Areas of additional theoretical visibility are located within the more distant, western parts of the LCT, beyond 17km from the site. Viewpoint 14 is representative of views from this LCT, although it is located at the edge of the area, adjoining NatureScot 125 LCT at the boundary with the CNP. This LCT is west of the site and whereby the Proposal would increase the heights of three turbines within the centre of the array. This may be visible, with more turbines appearing slightly higher above the horizon in views towards the site and which would be more apparent in closer locations within the LCT. However, the change, when set within the existing array, is not considered to be of such a degree that

				the effect upon the LC would be changed from that assessed for the Consented Development.
LCT12a	13 / 292	Open Upland with Steep Slopes	Not significant (minor/negligible)	There is almost no additional visibility indicated within this LCT. Viewpoint 7 is representative of views from within this LCT and demonstrates that the position of the three turbines within the north-western part of the array would little alter the extent of the array seen from areas of this LCT which lie to the south of the site.
CNG2	7 / 294	Narrow Farmed Valleys	Not significant (negligible)	There are no areas of additional visibility indicated on the ZTV. Viewpoint 8 is representative of views from within this LCT although it is located at the edge of the area, adjoining the boundary with the CNP. This LCT is south of the site and whereby the Proposal would increase the heights of three turbines within the more distant, northern part of the array. This may be visible, with more turbines appearing slightly higher above the horizon in views towards the site. However, the change, when set within the existing array, at distances of more than 15km, is not considered to be of such a degree that the effect upon the LC would be changed from that assessed for the Consented Development.

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CNG3	6 / 287	Broad Farmed Valley	Not significant (minor/negligible)	There is no additional visibility indicted on the ZTV. There are representative views within this LCT, as described in relation to MWELCS LCT7 above. Guided by the nature of potential visibility arising as a result of the proposal, generally, the limited degree to which the Proposal would change the appearance of the array overall from within this LCT is small. The assessed effects within this LCT and would remain unchanged.
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Shading denotes those landscapes where previously concluded effects for the Consented Proposed Development were moderate/minor or moderate, not significant, and therefore have the greatest potential to become one which is significant.

## APPENDIX 2

### Visual amenity assessment

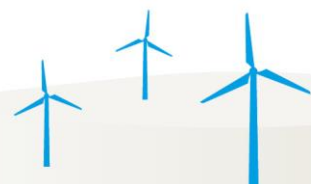




Table A2.1

Viewpoint / Visual Receptor	Consented Development (at Operation)	Proposal
Viewpoint 1 A941, South of Lossiemouth	Not significant (moderate / minor)	There would be a slight change to the appearance of the array above the horizon, however, the change which would occur as a result of the Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change, or intensification of, those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 2 A96 East of Elgin	Not significant (moderate / minor)	The increased height of turbines 9, 13 and 14 would be concurrent with other turbines which appear on the horizon, although contributing to a slight increase in the density of turbine hubs and blades appearing within the array. The change would not, however, increase or notably intensify the effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 3 B9016, Aultmore	Not significant (negligible)	The Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change, or intensification of, those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 4 Ben Aigan	<b>Significant (major/moderate)</b>	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 are located within the more distant part of the array and whilst their increase in height could be seen, the change would be very small when considered against the wider appearance of the array.
Viewpoint 5 A95, East of Craigellachie	<b>Significant (moderate)</b>	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 would largely be obscured by landform of. Whilst their blades may appear occasionally beyond the hillside, the change would be very small when considered

		against the wider appearance of the array.
Viewpoint 6 A95, South of Aberlour	<b>Significant (major)</b>	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 are located within the more distant part of the array and whilst their increase in height could be seen, the change would be very small when considered against the wider appearance of the array.
Viewpoint 7 Ben Rinnes	<b>Significant (moderate)</b>	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 are located within the more distant part of the array and whilst their increase in height could be seen, the change would be very small when considered against the wider appearance of the array.
Viewpoint 8 Carn a Ghille Chearr Summit	Not significant (moderate). Reporters concluded significant (Inquiry Report paragraph 3.350).	There would be a slight change to the appearance of the array above the horizon, however, the change which would occur as a result of the Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change, or intensification of, to those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 9 Dallas Castle	Not significant (negligible)	The potential appearance of turbines 9, 13 and 14 will increase but will remain partially screened by landform and set back within the landscape in comparison with Rothes I and II.
Viewpoint 10 Minor Road Knockando to Dallas	Not significant (minor)	The increase in height of turbines 9, 13 and 14, whilst potentially appreciable from this viewpoint, would not appear discordant with the wider array, nor that of the existing Rothes I and II turbines, or the undulating landscape upon which they are seen.
Viewpoint 11 B9102, West of Archiestown	<b>Significant (major/moderate)</b>	The increase in height of turbines 9, 13 and 14, whilst potentially appreciable from this viewpoint, would not appear discordant with the wider array, nor that of the existing Rothes I and II turbines,

		or the undulating landscape upon which they are seen.
Viewpoint 12 Old Military Road Baltimore to Cawdor	Not significant (negligible)	There would be a slight change to the appearance of the array above the horizon, however, the change which would occur as a result of the Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change to those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 13 The Duke of Gordon Monument, Elgin	Not significant (moderate). Reporters concluded significant (Inquiry Report, paragraph 3.350).	There would be a slight change to the appearance of the array above the horizon whereby turbines 9, 13 and 14 appear more completely above the horizon. However, the change would appear concurrent with the appearance of other turbines within the same part of the array. There would be no change, or notable intensification of, those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 14 Carn na Loine	Not significant (minor / negligible)	There would be a slight change to the appearance of the array above the horizon, however, the change which would occur as a result of the Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change, or intensification of, those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 15 Carn Diamh	Not significant (minor)	There would be a slight change to the appearance of the array above the horizon, however, the change which would occur as a result of the Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change to those effects identified for the Consented Development.

Viewpoint 16 Cnap Chaochan Aitinn	Not significant (negligible)	The Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change to those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 17 Bynack More	Not significant (negligible)	The Proposal would be so diminutive at distances beyond approximately 15km that there would be no discernible change to those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 18 Speyside Way Blacksboat Bridge	<b>Significant (moderate)</b>	There would be a small increase in the extent of blade tips of these three turbines which could appear above the landform, however these would most likely be filtered by vegetation within the foreground and middle ground. There would be no change, or notable intensification of, those effects identified for the Consented Development.
Viewpoint 19 B9102 between Blacksboat Bridge and Cardhu'	<b>Significant (major/moderate)</b>	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 would appear taller within the array but of a comparative scale to others which could be visible at this location. There would be no change, or notable intensification of, those effects identified for the Consented Development.

Shading denotes those visual receptors where previously concluded effects in the LVIA for the Consented Development were moderate/minor or moderate, not significant, and therefore have the greatest potential to become one which is significant notwithstanding the views of the Reporters which are also noted.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

*Table A3.1 Properties assessed as significant in relation to the Consented Development*

<b>Residential Visual Amenity Receptor</b>	<b>Consented Development (at Operation)</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
Property 3: Blackhillock (1 property)	<b>Significant (moderate)</b>	The Proposal would bring these turbines more in alignment with others which are visible from this property, which are notably those that are closer and of 225m height to blade tip. These turbines may therefore add to those which could be visible above intervening forestry and most visible from the access track approaching the property. This change is not considered to alter the previous judgements, and not elevate the previously identified significant effect to one which would be overwhelming or overbearing at this property.
Property 6: Lynes (1 property)	<b>Significant (moderate)</b>	The blades, hubs and part of the towers of the Consented Development turbines 9, 13 and 14 are indicated as being visible from this property and with much of their towers obscured by landform and likely to be further screened by trees. They also appear set behind other turbines in the array which lie closer to the property. The Proposal would increase these three turbines; however, they would be likely to continue to benefit from screening. Their position, set to the north of the array, further limits the potential perception of the Proposal for views from this property. There would be no change to the conclusions of the previous RVAA.
Property 9: Newlands-Robertstown (4 properties)	<b>Significant (major / moderate)</b>	The blades, hubs and part of the towers of the Consented Development turbines 9, 13 and 14 are indicated as being visible from these properties and with much of their towers obscured by landform and likely to be further screened by trees. They also appear set behind other turbines in the array which lie closer to the property. The Proposal would increase these three turbines; however, they would be likely to continue to benefit from screening. Their position, set to the north of the array, further limits the potential perception of the Proposal for views from this property. There would be no change to the conclusions of the previous RVAA.

Property 15: Archiestown E (1 property)	<b>Significant (moderate)</b>	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 were not previously visible. Consented 225m turbines which are closer to this property (T17 for example) has very limited visibility. The Proposal may introduce additional blade tips above the horizon but which would be a very minor change which may be screened by intervening forestry. There would be no change to the conclusions of the previous RVAA.
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*Table A3.2 Properties assessed as not significant in relation to the Consented Development*

<b>Residential Visual Amenity Receptor</b>	<b>Consented Development (at Operation)</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
Property 1 Lyne of Knockando	Not significant (minor)	The hubs (unlit) of turbines 9 and 14 are likely to appear above the horizon as would a greater proportion of the blade of T13. The turbines would, however, continue to appear set within the distant (3km) moorland landscape which includes scattered trees and possible screening by farm structures within the property. The magnitude of change is not considered to increase from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.
Property 2 Knockingore	Not significant (minor)	The hubs of turbines 9 and 14 of the Consented Development are shown to extend above the horizon. The Proposal would increase the extent to which this is the case, with more of the towers theoretically visible. The hub of T13 may become visible at the horizon although screening from forestry may occur. The magnitude of change is not considered to increase from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.
Property 4 Brackenhoves	Not significant (negligible)	The blade tips of turbines 9 and 14 of the Consented Development are shown to extend above the horizon. The Proposal will bring the hubs at or close to the horizon and increase the amount of the blade of T13 which could be visible. However, outbuildings and vegetation within the property will continue to screen views towards the Proposal. The magnitude of change is not considered to increase from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.

Property 5 Burnside of Ballintomb	Not significant (minor)	The blades, hubs and part of the towers of the Consented Development turbines 9, 13 and 14 are indicated as being visible from these properties and with much of their towers obscured by landform and likely to be further screened by trees. They are located within the more distant part of the array. The Proposal would increase the extent of the towers theoretically visible above the horizon although it is noted in the RVAA that the orientation of, and screening surrounding the property, would mean the Proposal would not increase the magnitude of change from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.
Property 7 Moss Street Property	Not significant (negligible)	The blades, hubs and part of the towers of the Consented Development turbines 9, 13 and 14 are indicated as being visible from this property. The RVAA identified that screening by vegetation would prohibit views of the Consented Development, although glimpses could be possible from the approach track. The turbines subject to the Proposal are located behind other turbines in the array which lie closer to the property. The Proposal would increase these three turbines; however, they would be likely to continue to benefit from screening. Their position, set to the north of the array, further limits the potential perception of the Proposal for views from this property. There would be no change to the previous RVAA.
Property 8 North Robertstown	Not significant (moderate)	Turbines 9, 13 and 13 are located within the more distant part of the array, with part of their towers obscured by landform. Whilst the Proposal would increase their height above the horizon, they will continue to make a minor contribution to the overall change to views, which would remain as concluded in the RVAA, as would an effect of moderate, not significant.
Property 10 Allachrow	Not significant (negligible)	Even the closest of the Consented Development have little or no visibility. The Proposal would be unlikely to result in any visible change to views from this property. There would be no change to the previous RVAA.
Properties 11: Archiestown A (3 properties)	Not significant (minor)	The blade tips of turbines 9, 13 and 14 of the Consented Development are shown to



		extend above the horizon. The Proposal will bring the hubs at or close to the horizon and increase the amount of the blade of T13 which could be visible. However, outbuildings and vegetation within the properties will continue to screen views towards the site. The magnitude of change is not considered to increase from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.
Properties 12: Archiestown B (2 properties)	Not significant (negligible)	Most of turbines 9, 13 and 14 of the Consented Development extend above the horizon. The Proposal would increase this, although their location within the more distant part of the array, and in combination with the limited likelihood for views towards the Site from these properties, the magnitude of change is not considered to increase from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.
Properties 13: Archiestown C (4 properties)	Not significant (negligible)	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 of the Consented Development are theoretically visible within the more distant part of the array with nearer turbines increasingly screened by landform. In theory the Proposal would be seen, however the RVAA identified very limited views towards the development. The magnitude of change is not considered to increase from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.
Properties 14: Archiestown D (5 properties)	Not significant (negligible)	Turbines 9, 13 and 14 of the Consented Development are not theoretically visible from these properties. It is possible that the Proposal would result in the appearance of blade tips above the horizon. However, the RVAA identified potential for further screening from forestry and that views would be limited. The magnitude of change is not considered to increase from that of the RVAA and the level of effect also remains unchanged.

Shading denotes those property groups where previously concluded effects for the Consented Proposed Development were moderate/minor or moderate, not significant, and therefore have the greatest potential to become one which is significant.



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