



Balgray Wind Farm

Appendix 6.3 – Preliminary Assessment of Landscape Character Types and Designations

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1. Preliminary Assessment of Landscape Character Types and designations

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This appendix provides a preliminary assessment of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the detailed 20km LVIA Study Area and the Landscape Designations within the 35km study area.
- 1.1.2. Landscape Designations within 35km are illustrated on **Figure 6.2: Landscape Designations within 35km Study Area**, with those within 20km additionally shown on **Figure 6.3: Landscape Designations within 20km Study Area**. The Landscape Designations within 35km have been overlaid with the ZTV on **Figure 6.25: Blade Tip ZTV up to 35km with Landscape Designations**, with those within 20km also overlaid with the ZTV on **Figure 6.26: Blade Tip ZTV up to 20km with Landscape Designations**.
- 1.1.3. LCTs within 35km of the Proposed Development have been illustrated on **Figure 6.4: Landscape Character Types within 35km Study Area**, with those located within the detailed 20km LVIA Study Area illustrated on **Figure 6.5a: Landscape Character Types within 20km Study Area – NatureScot** and **Figure 6.5b: Landscape Character Types within 20km Study Area – Dumfries and Galloway**. The LCTs within 20km have also been overlaid with the ZTV on **Figure 6.27a: Blade Tip ZTV up to 20km with Landscape Character Types– NatureScot** and **Figure 6.27b: Blade Tip ZTV up to 20km with Landscape Character Types– Dumfries and Galloway**.

1.2. Preliminary Assessment of LCTs

- 1.2.1. An initial filtering exercise has been undertaken to determine which LCTs within 20km would have the potential for significant effects to arise and would therefore require detailed consideration in the LVIA. The intention has been to ensure that the level of attention given to each LCT is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The discussion below summarises the process followed in deciding which LCTs have the potential to experience significant effects as well as those LCTs that do not require any further consideration.
- 1.2.2. With reference to **Figure 6.4** and the blade tip ZTV at **Figure 6.11: Blade Tip ZTV up to 35km**, all LCTs located between 20km and 35km have been scoped out of further assessment, on account of the distance from the Proposed Development, the influence of other closer wind farm development and the relatively limited theoretical visibility. It is acknowledged that there may be very limited potential for effects on the character of available views from these LCTs but there would be no potential for significant effects to arise.



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

Table 6.3.1: Preliminary Assessment of LCTs

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
NatureScot LCT 175: Foothills - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 18 Foothills (Annandale and Beattock units)	Proposed Development (including all proposed turbines) is located within one tract of this LCT	Potential for direct and indirect significant effects.	Yes
NatureScot LCT 172: Upland Fringe - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 16 Upland Fringe (Annandale and Torthorwald and Ae units)	Approximately 1km to the south	Theoretical visibility from relatively close range. Potential for indirect significant effects	Yes
NatureScot LCT 161: Pastoral Valley - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 5 Intimate Pastoral Valley (Dryfe unit)	Approximately 2km to the west	Theoretical visibility from relatively close range. Potential for indirect significant effects	Yes
NatureScot LCT 163: Middle Dale - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 7 Middle Dale (Mid Annandale unit) and DGWLCS LCT 7a Middle Dale with Hills	Approximately 4km to the south west	Theoretical visibility from relatively close range. Potential for indirect significant effects	Yes
NatureScot LCT 162: Lower Dale - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 6 Lower Dale (Lower Annandale and Lower Nithsdale units)	Approximately 5km to the south west	Theoretical visibility from relatively close range. Potential for indirect significant effects	Yes
NatureScot LCT 176: Foothills with Forest- Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 18a Foothills with Forest (Castle Oer and Eskdale units)	Approximately 5km to the northeast	Limited theoretical visibility from the LCT, with the majority having none. Mostly forested which further restricts potential for visibility	No
NatureScot LCT 178: Southern Uplands with Forest - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 19a Southern Uplands with	Approximately 6km to the north	Limited theoretical visibility from the LCT, with the majority having none. Mostly forested	No



Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Forest (Eskdalemuir and Ewe Hills units)		which further restricts potential for visibility	
NatureScot LCT 160: Narrow Wooded River Valley - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 4 Narrow Wooded River Valleys (Eskdale and Kirtle Water units)	Approximately 7km to the northeast	Limited theoretical visibility from the LCT, with the majority having none	No
NatureScot LCT 177: Southern Uplands - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 19 Southern Uplands (North Moffat, East Moffat, North Langholm and Ewe Hill units)	Approximately 13km to the east	Limited theoretical visibility from the LCT, with the majority having none	No
NatureScot LCT 166: Upland Glens - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 10 Upland Glens (Moffat, Evan and Ewes units)	Approximately 14km to the north	Limited theoretical visibility from the LCT, with the majority having none.	No
NatureScot LCT 170: Coastal Plateau - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 14 Coastal Plateau	Approximately 15km to the south	Limited theoretical visibility from the LCT.	No
NatureScot LCT 171: Flow Plateau - Dumfries & Galloway / DGWLCS LCT 15 Flow Plateau	Approximately 13km to the southeast	Limited theoretical visibility from the LCT.	No

1.3. Preliminary Assessment of Landscape Designations

- 1.3.1. An initial filtering exercise has been undertaken to determine which Designated Landscapes within 35km would have the potential for significant effects to arise and would therefore require detailed consideration in the LVIA. The intention has been to ensure that the level of attention given to each Designated Landscape is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The discussion below summarises the process followed in deciding which Designated Landscapes have the potential to experience significant effects as well as those that do not require any further consideration.



1.3.2. Landscape designations within 35km are illustrated on **Figure 6.2**, with those within 20km additionally shown on **Figure 6.3**. The Landscape Designations within 35km have also been overlaid with the ZTV on **Figure 6.25**, with those within 20km overlaid with the ZTV additionally shown on **Figure 6.26**.

1.3.3. **Table 6.3.2** below lists all Designated Landscapes within the 35km LVIA Study Area and considers whether the potential effects upon them should be assessed in more detail within the LVIA.

Table 6.3.2: Preliminary Assessment of Landscape Designations

Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Nith Estuary National Scenic Area (NSA)	Approximately 25km to the southwest	As illustrated on the ZTV overlaid on to the Landscape Designations within 35km of the Site, there would be very little potential for views of the Proposed Development from the NSA.	No
Torthorwald Ridge Regional Scenic Area (RSA)	Approximately 12km to the southwest	Potential for visibility of the Proposed Development from some parts of the RSA.	Yes
Langholm Hills Regional Scenic Area	Approximately 13km to the east	Limited theoretical visibility from the RSA, with the majority having none	No
Moffat Hills Regional Scenic Area	Approximately 14km to the north	Limited theoretical visibility from the RSA	No
Thornhill Uplands Regional Scenic Area	Approximately 20km to the northwest	Limited theoretical visibility from the RSA, with the majority having none	No
Terregles Ridge Regional Scenic Area	Approximately 25km to the southwest	Limited theoretical visibility from the RSA	No
Solway Coast Regional Scenic Area	Approximately 25km to the southwest	Limited theoretical visibility from the RSA	No
Scottish Borders - Tweedsmuir Uplands Special Landscape Area	Approximately 26km to the north	Very limited theoretical visibility from the RSA, with the majority having none	No
South Lanarkshire – Leadhills and Lowther Hills Special Landscape Area	Approximately 23km to the northwest	Very limited theoretical visibility from the RSA, with the majority having none	No





Fred. Olsen Renewables Ltd
Ochil House, Springkerse Business Park
Stirling FK7 7XE

www.fredolsenrenewables.com

