

Appendix 5.2 Additional Landscape Character Assessment

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Appendix 5.2 Additional Landscape Character Assessment

Introduction

This appendix sets out an assessment for the following two Landscape Character Areas (LCA) which were omitted from the LVIA in the 2019 EIA Report. The LCAs are described and defined in the *Shetland Isles Landscape Character Assessment*.

The location of the LCAs is presented in Figure 5.1.3. The ZTV of the Proposed Development overlaid with the LCAs is shown in Figure 5.2.5 to a 20km limit, in Volume 3. The visibility indicated within these figures is derived from computer modelling and represents a bare-earth environment, i.e. the modelling does not include built development or localised changes in landform, which may screen the development, either in full or in part.

Table 5.1.1 - LCA: C2, Undulating Moorland with Lochs, North Roe

Location
<p>The landscape character area extends across the northern sector of North Roe from Ronas Hill northward to the coastal edge.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the LCA, currently weakly influences the existing baseline landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garth Wind Farm. <p>The following consented developments, which are located beyond the LCA, will weakly influence the LCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beaw Field; ▪ Viking (tip extension).
Determination of Landscape Sensitivity
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be Medium. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p>Value - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part of the Point of Fethland National Scenic Area; and ▪ Part of Ronas Hill LLA. <p>Susceptibility to Change – Medium to Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The landscape of the LCA is characterised by undulating moorland shelving from east to west, with frequent lochans; and ▪ Perceptual Qualities: the landscape has a remote, visually isolated feel.
Magnitude of Change
<p>The magnitude of change to the Undulating Moorland with Lochs, North Roe LCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be Slight, across the limited areas with visibility. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p>Size or Scale</p>

<p>The Proposed Development will be seen from this undulating landscape as a distant new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, beyond Yell Sound.</p> <p>Geographical Extent</p> <p>The ZTV indicates intermittent, partial visibility. There will be more direct visibility, often to all 23 turbines but over distances of greater than 10km, from the north facing flanks of Ronas Hill, the Beorgs of Uyea and the hills west of Sandvoe.</p>
<p>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</p> <p>The operational Garth Wind Farm would be visible in combined distant views, with the Proposed Development, and in sequential views with the consented Beaw Field Wind Farm, to the south east.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built and consented wind farms would not result in significant cumulative effects from this LCA, due to the effect of distance and the separation between the wind farms.</p>
<p>Significance of Effect</p> <p>The combination of the individual judgements of the Medium sensitivity and Slight magnitude of change are considered to result in a Moderate/Minor effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be Not Significant.</p>

Table 5.1.2: LCA: F5: Scattered Settlements/ Crofting and Grazing Land

<p>Location</p> <p>The landscape character area comprises areas of scattered settlement, extending along the sheltered voes and sounds of Yell.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the LCA, currently influences the existing baseline landscape character at Gutcher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garth Wind Farm. <p>The following consented development will also influence parts of the LCA on southern Yell once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beaw Field.
<p>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</p> <p>The sensitivity is considered to be Medium. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p>Value - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The area at Cullivoe is within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA. <p>Susceptibility to Change - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The landscape of the LCA is characterised by outward facing views from the small-scale crofting landscape, influenced by a range of development including the local road system, electricity transmission lines, wind farm development and traditional crofting land uses; ▪ Perceptual qualities: the presence of settlement, crofting activity and other development within and influencing this landscape, reduces the sense of remoteness; and ▪ There are occasional cultural heritage features which locally raise sensitivity.
<p>Magnitude of Change</p>

The magnitude of change to the Scattered Settlements/ Crofting and Grazing Land LLA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be generally no greater than **Moderate**, but locally at Cunnister and Sellafirth, the effects will be **Substantial**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

Size or Scale

The Proposed Development will be partially seen from sub units of the LCA at Basta Voe, Sand Vick and Burra Ness, with more direct visibility at Cunnister and Sellafirth, as a new large-scale man-made development, set within the moorland interior of Yell and away from the expansive coastal views.

Geographical Extent

The ZTV indicates partial theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development from the east coast of Yell and more direct visibility from Cunnister, Sellafirth, Burra Ness and Sand Wick.

Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

The operational Garth Wind Farm will be visible in combined local views with the Proposed Development around Gutcher.

The *total* cumulative effect of built wind farms will contribute to a Moderate but not significant cumulative effect on this LCA, around Gutcher.

Significance of Effect

The combination of the individual judgements of **Medium** sensitivity and a locally **Substantial** magnitude of change from Sellafirth and Cunnister, are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**. Elsewhere in the LCA effects will be partial and moderated by intervening terrain, with a no greater than Moderate magnitude of change, which is considered to be Not Significant.

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