

5 Landscape and Visual

Contents

| | | |
|-----|--|------|
| 5.1 | Executive Summary | 5-1 |
| 5.2 | Introduction | 5-2 |
| 5.3 | Response to Consultation Responses | 5-3 |
| 5.4 | Updated Assessment of Residual Effects | 5-8 |
| 5.5 | Assessment of Cumulative Effects | 5-59 |
| 5.6 | Assessment of Effects at Decommissioning and Post-Operational Stages | 5-60 |
| 5.7 | Comparison of Effects | 5-60 |
| 5.8 | Summary | 5-63 |
| 5.9 | References | 5-71 |

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5 Landscape and Visual

5.1 Executive Summary

- 5.1.1 Following further consideration of the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development, as set out in the 2020 Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI), the Applicant requested an online meeting with NatureScot ('NS') and Shetland Islands Council ('SIC') in December 2020 to present and discuss some potential, additional, refinement to the layout and turbine height proposed. Changes to the Proposed Development were identified in order to address the objection by NS related to the perceived effects on the special qualities of two parts of the Shetland National Scenic Area (NSA), being the sub-unit areas of North Roe and Unst.
- 5.1.2 As a consequence of this meeting, NS provided a further consultation response to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU), dated 19th March 2021, setting out its consideration of the draft changes and advising that *"This design amendment (with further minor suggestions for iteration) is commensurate with our original advice in relation to incorporating a more meaningful reduction in wind farm scale. We therefore consider there to be merit in assessing this layout through full EIA."*
- 5.1.3 Accordingly, this chapter presents a detailed update to the assessment of landscape and visual effects associated with the changes made to the Proposed Development, as set out in Chapter 3. In particular, it identifies the additional mitigation secured through the removal of five turbines and reduction in blade tip height of a further ten turbines, by 20m, to 180m. This change ensures that all of the turbines in the Proposed Development are of a consistent 180m in blade tip height.
- 5.1.4 The assessment of landscape and visual effects has been carried out by the Applicant's incumbent landscape architects, Hermitage Environmental Planning and Landscape Architecture Limited ('hepla'), and Optimised Environments Limited ('OPEN'), and is presented through this chapter of the SEI 2.
- 5.1.5 The revised Proposed Development accommodates 18 wind turbines of 180m to blade tip height, reflecting a discernible reduction in the previous scheme of 23 turbines (180m and 200m tip heights), and associated infrastructure, as assessed in the 2020 SEI. The adjustment to the Proposed Development, most notably removing Turbines T5, T6, T8, T9 and T10, further reduces the visual influence of the Proposed Development on the sub-units of the Shetland NSA at North Roe and Unst. In particular, the turbine removal and reduction in height of a further ten turbines draws the Proposed Development back even further from the coastline of north Yell, strengthening the association of the wind farm with the moorland landscape and reducing its perceived relationship with the coastal fringe, which forms an important backdrop to views from both northern (Unst) and southern (North Roe) sub-units of the NSA. As recognised in NS's consultation response of 19th March 2021, the proposed reduction in turbine numbers in the north of the site sets the wind farm back visually from the sensitive coastal edge in views from the NSA. In turn, the increased horizontal extent of undeveloped peatland is more in proportion to the horizontal scale of the wind farm, such that the wind farm appears to sit within the peatland rather than intruding on the sensitive coastal edge. NS considers that this revision has the potential to mitigate the effect of the wind farm on the immediate coastal character of Yell, which in turn contributes to the experience of NSA special landscape qualities.
- 5.1.6 This SEI 2 has been prepared in consultation with NS and presents an updated assessment of the landscape and visual effects that were detailed within the 2019 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and 2020 SEI, to take into account the amended 2021 layout. It has been prepared by OPEN, who have been engaged by the Applicant to provide a Peer Review role of hepla's LVIA/ 2020 SEI, to ensure a robust assessment process. The findings presented in SEI 2 reflect the combined professional views of the respective practices. Both practices have over 20 years of professional experience in undertaking landscape and visual impact assessment.

5.2 Introduction

- 5.2.1 This chapter provides an updated assessment of the effects on landscape resources and visual amenity that would be likely to result from the construction, operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This follows on from the reduction in the number of wind turbines proposed from 23 to 18, with associated removal of infrastructure, and also the associated reduction in height of ten turbines from 200m to a blade tip height of 180m. Details of the amended layout are set out in Chapter 3 of this SEI and also include the removal of associated tracks and hardstandings; the removal of borrow pits B, F and H, and small adjustments to proposed track alignments. As mitigation is embedded into the design, all effects are residual.
- 5.2.2 The alteration to the Proposed Development is intended to address the concerns of NS regarding perceived effects on the special qualities of the Shetland NSA.
- 5.2.3 The updated Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) presented in this chapter has been prepared to provide an understanding of the reduced effects of the 2021 Layout (SEI 2). The revised assessment is tabulated, with detailed assessment included where appropriate to examine the reduced effects.
- 5.2.4 Since the 2019 EIA Report was written, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has changed its trading name to NatureScot (NS). Where historic reference is used in this chapter, the abbreviation 'SNH' may be used, whereas NS is applied to the current assessment. For the avoidance of doubt, the terms SNH and NatureScot/ NS may be used interchangeably.

Reading Guide

- 5.2.5 The baseline landscape and visual conditions currently existing within the Proposed Development site and within the surrounding study area are fully described in Chapter 5: LVIA of the 2019 EIA Report, as updated by the 2020 SEI. For the purposes of this update to the assessment, the baseline previously described in the 2019 EIA Report is unchanged and all effects are assessed against this baseline.
- 5.2.6 This update to the LVIA concentrates on the key landscape and visual issues identified during the Scoping stage and through correspondence with SIC and NS in relation to:
- landscape effects – both physical changes to constituent elements of the landscape fabric, and how changes in the character and qualities of the landscape, coastlines and designated areas are perceived by people, as a result of the Proposed Development; and
 - visual effects – changes to views or visual amenity, as experienced by people, from key viewpoints, the surrounding land and sea, settlements, roads, footpaths and cycle routes, as a result of the Proposed Development.
- 5.2.7 The assessment of effects on some landscape and visual receptors set out in Chapter 5: LVIA of the 2019 EIA Report is superseded by the information contained within the 2020 SEI. This SEI 2 updates only those receptors evaluated within the 2020 SEI as the further mitigation proposed, including turbine removal, only has the potential to maintain or reduce landscape and visual effects on those previously assessed receptors. The assessment for those landscape and visual receptors not reassessed, remains as presented in the 2019 EIA Report and / or 2020 SEI.

Methodology

- 5.2.8 In the 2019 EIA Report, the landscape methodology, as described in Chapter 5, Section 5.4, was based upon the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA)*, Third Edition, 2013. There have been no changes to the appropriate guidance since this time. The methodology used in this update of the LVIA remains as set out in Appendix 5.1 of the 2019 EIA Report.
- 5.2.9 The assessment of effects on the special qualities of the Shetland NSA, set out in Appendix 5.1, is based on the draft NS methodology, Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape

Qualities (Working Draft 11, November 2018), which was provided to the consultant team by NS in the autumn of 2019. The NS advice at that time was that this guidance should be used for the assessment, notwithstanding its draft status. It remains valid for the purposes of SEI 2.

Supporting Graphics

- 5.2.10 This update to the LVIA has been informed by the figures listed below and included in Volume 2 of SEI 2, which illustrate the effects of removing turbines T5, T6, T8, T9 and T10, and the reduction in height of ten turbines from 200m to 180m.
- 5.2.11 The LVIA is supported by the following figures: Figure 5.2.1, Blade Tip Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV); Figure 5.2.10, Blade Tip ZTV overlaid on Landscape Character and Figure 5.2.11, Blade Tip ZTV overlaid on Designation. Viewpoint locations are shown in Figure 5.2.1. A comparative ZTV showing the reduction in theoretical visibility from 23 to 18 turbines is included in Figure 5.2.9.
- 5.2.12 The assessment of landscape and visual effects is also supported by comparative wireframes/photomontages in Figures 5.3.1di to 5.3.21 e. Comparative wirelines have also been produced for residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) viewpoints, as shown in Figures 5.8.1b to Figure 5.8.5c.
- 5.2.13 The cumulative assessment is accompanied by the cumulative site location plan in Figure 5.4.2, and cumulative wireframes contained within the visualisations noted above.
- 5.2.14 The ZTV in Figure 5.7.4 shows the theoretical extent of visible aviation lighting. A ZTV has also been prepared to illustrate the intensity of visible aviation lighting, based on the assessment prepared by Wind Power Aviation Consultants Ltd (Figure 5.7.5). The night-time assessment is supported by visualisations produced for three viewpoints, VPs 3, 7 and 10 as shown in Figure 5.7.1e to Figure 5.7.3eii.

5.3 Response to Consultation Responses

NatureScot

- 5.3.1 A set of draft comparative visualisations was discussed with representatives of SIC and NS via a Teams call on 14th December 2020, ahead of this SEI 2 being produced. This meeting resulted in a further consultation response from NS dated 19th March 2021. In this consultation response, NS set out its consideration of the 18 turbine revision:
- 5.3.2 *“Comparison of the visualisations of the original, 2020 and current layouts shows a tangible change to the layout of the wind farm, the removal of a further 5 turbines does reducing the extent of the wind farm in the views from the NSA.*
- 5.3.3 *Given the physical and visual relationship of the flat peatlands of Yell, situated between the coastal NSA in both North Roe and Unst, the wind farm will still introduce and will be experienced as, a prominent large scale development, clearly visible in views from within the NSA. However the proposed reduction in turbine numbers in the north of the site sets the wind farm back visually from the sensitive coastal edge in views from the NSA. In turn this increased horizontal extent of undeveloped peatland is more in proportion to the horizontal scale of the wind farm, such that the windfarm appears to sit within the peatland rather than intruding on the sensitive coastal edge. This revision, we consider has the potential to mitigate the effect of the wind farm on the immediate coastal character of Yell, which in turn contributes to the experience of NSA special landscape qualities.*
- 5.3.4 *This design amendment (with further minor suggestions for iteration) is commensurate with our original advice in relation to incorporating a more meaningful reduction in wind farm scale. We therefore consider there to be merit in assessing this layout through full EIA.*
- 5.3.5 *No advice has been presented here in relation to these layout changes and potential cumulative effects on the NSA as a whole, which will need to be considered as part of any further environmental assessment.”*

- 5.3.6 The NS response also comments on a set of wirelines produced by the Applicant in December 2020 to illustrate (in theoretical terms) what a development might look like on the site, whilst adhering to the guidance contained in the Shetland Capacity Study. In relation to these wirelines NS notes that *“The Capacity Wirelines are useful to illustrate what a ‘capacity-led’ development might appear, however it should be noted that the Shetland Capacity Study advocates any threshold of development as a maximum capacity which could be sited anywhere within a much wider extent of the B1 Yell Peatland LCT and not limited to the development site boundary.”*
- 5.3.7 NS also comments on the requirement for visible aviation lighting to be fitted to the turbines on the basis that they exceed 150m in height: *“Lighting of the turbines will increase the magnitude of significant individual and cumulative effect on the NSA. We therefore encourage applicants to explore all available forms of lighting mitigation as a means of reducing or avoiding impacts. Various mitigation options are currently available and these should be considered on a case by case basis.”*
- 5.3.8 Mitigation in respect of aviation lighting has been considered as part of the SEI 2, with a technical report being prepared by Wind Power Aviation Consultants Ltd, which is contained in Appendix 13.1. The recommendations made in that report are considered further in this chapter, in terms of the visual mitigation they would achieve.
- 5.3.9 The basis of NS’s objection to the Proposed Development is set out in its consultation response dated 15th July 2019. This response is assessed in detail within 2020 SEI and not repeated here. In summary, NS’s objection to the Proposed Development is due to the *“significant adverse effects on the special qualities of the Shetland NSA such that the objectives of the designation and overall integrity of the area would be compromised.”*
- 5.3.10 The objection was raised in light of the effects of the proposal on the Shetland NSA. The components or sub-units of the NSA which will be influenced by the Proposed Development are the northern part of Unst (Hermaness) and the North Roe sector of Mainland (Fethaland).
- 5.3.11 Table 5.1 below summarises the content of NatureScot’s Consultation response dated 19th March 2021 and indicates how each matter raised has been addressed in this SEI 2.

Table 5.1: NatureScot Consultation Response 19th March 2021

| Matter raised in NatureScot Landscape Advice | Response in SEI 2 |
|---|--|
| <i>Our understanding is that at this stage the applicants are looking for an initial steer, and that if this revised proposal is taken forward it will be fully assessed through EIA.</i> | The assessment is presented within this SEI 2. |
| <p><i>Reflecting the Capacity Study we consider that there is some capacity on Yell to incorporate a commercial scale win [sic] energy development. Further to this we consider there are opportunities to mitigate the effects of the development in relation to how the SQs are experienced. This would require substantial changes to the scale and siting of the proposed wind farm. In particular changes to the development such that it appears more subservient in the landscape and experience of the SQs by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A meaningful reduction on wind farm scale (turbine height and potentially turbine numbers), and</i> | <p>The 2021 Layout provides a discernible reduction in height of ten turbines from 200m to 180m to blade tip and reduces turbine numbers from 23 to 18.</p> <p>The five turbines removed increase the separation of the wind farm from the ‘sensitive coastal edge’.</p> <p>As a direct consequence, the 2021 Layout sits more firmly within the moorland landscape.</p> |

| Matter raised in NatureScot Landscape Advice | Response in SEI 2 |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Removal/re-siting of turbines away from the sensitive coastal edge, such that they sit within (as opposed to on the edge of) the moorland landscape in a more contained grouping.</i> | |
| <p><i>Comparison of the visualisations of the original, 2020 and current layouts shows a tangible change to the layout of the wind farm, the removal of a further 5 turbines does reducing [sic] the extent of the wind farm in the views from the NSA.</i></p> | <p>The visualisations supporting this SEI 2 demonstrate that in key views from the sub-units of the NSA, the Proposed Development has been discernibly set back from the coastline, improving the perceived relationship of the wind farm with the inland moorland.</p> |
| <p><i>Given the physical and visual relationship of the flat peatlands of Yell, situated between the coastal NSA in both North Roe and Unst, the wind farm will still introduce and will be experienced as, a prominent large scale development, clearly visible in views from within the NSA. However the proposed reduction in turbine numbers in the north of the site sets the wind farm back visually from the sensitive coastal edge in views from the NSA. In turn this increased horizontal extent of undeveloped peatland is more in proportion to the horizontal scale of the wind farm, such that the windfarm appears to sit within the peatland rather than intruding on the sensitive coastal edge. This revision, we consider has the potential to mitigate the effect of the wind farm on the immediate coastal character of Yell, which in turn contributes to the experience of NSA special landscape qualities.</i></p> | <p>The assessment in SEI 2 has shown that significant visual effects will remain in some views towards the wind farm, albeit of a lower magnitude of change in some instances. However, the increased separation between the turbines and coastline has improved the perceived siting of the Proposed Development by setting it back from the shoreline. In turn, this has reduced the potential influence from the wind farm on the special landscape qualities of both sub-units of the NSA, thereby mitigating the likely effect on the designation.</p> |
| <p><i>This design amendment (with further minor suggestions for iteration) is commensurate with our original advice in relation to incorporating a more meaningful reduction in wind farm scale. We therefore consider there to be merit in assessing this layout through full EIA.</i></p> | <p>The further reduction in size and perceived re-siting of wind farm, as seen in views from the NSA, results in meaningful mitigation.</p> <p>The changes have been assessed through SEI 2 and found to be beneficial, in both landscape and visual terms.</p> |
| <p><i>No advice has been presented here in relation to these layout changes and potential cumulative effects on the NSA as a whole, which will need to be considered as part of any further environmental assessment.</i></p> | <p>The assessment in SEI 2 finds that the proposed wind farm will not give rise to a harmful effect on the integrity of the NSA, as a whole, either singly or in cumulative terms. The removal of five turbines and reduction in height of ten more turbines results in a more compact development that will contribute in combined cumulative terms to a 'landscape with wind turbines' typology, as opposed to a 'wind farm landscape' in the Shetlands. In</p> |

| Matter raised in NatureScot Landscape Advice | Response in SEI 2 |
|--|---|
| | this sense the Proposed Development will reflect the capacity identified in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development in the Shetland Islands (2009). |
| <p><i>In addition to the wirelines of the proposal, visualisations showing how a ‘maximum’ capacity development (developed from the SIC Wind Energy Capacity Study) could appear within the Development site boundary were presented at our December 2020 meeting. From the applicants’ perspective this was to inform discussion and to illustrate that to some extent any development (following the capacity study thresholds for change) is likely to introduce some significant effects on the NSA SLQs. We made no particular comment on these wirelines at the time, however some observations are included below. For clarity no capacity wirelines have been included within the package of FEI as part of this consultation.</i></p> | <p>The ‘capacity study’ wirelines were produced to inform discussion at the meeting with NatureScot in December 2020 and are not reproduced in SEI 2.</p> |
| <p><i>Lighting of the turbines will increase the magnitude of significant individual and cumulative effect on the NSA. We therefore encourage applicants to explore all available forms of lighting mitigation as a means of reducing or avoiding impacts. Various mitigation options are currently available and these should be considered on a case by case basis.</i></p> | <p>The Applicant’s aviation specialists WPAC have developed a Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report for the 2021 Layout. This Report proposes a range of mitigation measures to reduce the visual effects of visible aviation lighting including a reduction in the number of turbines that are fitted with lights; the application of latest technology in lamp design to restrict the horizontal beam width and through dimming of the medium intensity lights to 10% of their 2,000cd operational intensity, when visibility is greater than 5km from the turbine group.</p> <p>The findings of the Report are set out in Appendix 13.1 to Chapter 13 of SEI 2.</p> <p>In August 2021, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approved the reduced lighting proposals, resulting in meaningful mitigation of the likely effects at night.</p> |

EIA Report - Assessment of Shetland NSA

5.3.12 Chapter 5: LVIA of the 2019 EIA Report undertakes an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the Shetland NSA, at paragraphs 5.6.36 to 5.6.43. The assessment identified no significant effects arising from the Proposed Development on landscape character areas (LCA) or coastal character areas (CCA) within the NSA. This was due principally to the distance of the development from the LCA/CCA, the position of the wind farm substantially within the interior of Yell (in the main being set back from the sensitive coastal edge), and the relatively small component

the Proposed Development would form within the very expansive 360° nature of coastal views. The assessment identified that the Proposed Development will be experienced as a noticeable new element, being seen within very diverse and expansive views over separation distances greater than 12.5km. The assessment of effects on LCAs and CCAs found no significant effects on areas within the Fethaland and Hermaness sub-units of the NSA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects.

- 5.3.13 Visual effects on the NSA were assessed through a detailed analysis of the ZTV and through the assessment of individual viewpoints. Viewpoints included in the LVIA were from the: Fethaland sub-unit of the NSA at Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, North Roe and Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe; and from the Hermaness sub-unit of the NSA at Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill. Viewpoint 14, Wood Wick lies beyond the southern boundary of the NSA but is a useful viewpoint to consider as it provides similar views to those experienced from the southern extent of the Hermaness sub-unit of the NSA. The assessment of visual effects from these viewpoints concluded that a locally Major/Moderate (Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland and Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey. Moderate, Not Significant, effects were identified on receptors at Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill, and locally Major/Moderate Significant effects were found on receptors visiting the coastal edge at Wood Wick.
- 5.3.14 The landscape character of the NSA is not determined specifically by the outlook over the Proposed Development, whilst other factors, both physical and perceptual combine to give an area its landscape character. Therefore, the influence of the Proposed Development on landscape character and vis a vis the special qualities of a designated area will be typically less than the effect of the Proposed Development on a specific view. In general terms, the effects on viewpoints are assessed within the context of a specific outlook towards the site of a Proposed Development and are usually selected to obtain a clear view towards the site. The Proposed Development is the principal consideration in the viewpoint assessment and other fields of view are considered to a lesser degree.
- 5.3.15 The 2020 SEI found that the changes to the Proposed Development through the removal of turbines within the northern extent of the array and the reduction in the height of nine turbines would consolidate the wind farm within a single landscape character type. The changes would remove turbines from the northern headland of Yell and reduce the influence of the wind farm on coastal views and character. Turbines would also be removed from views between the headlands of the islands and away from the foreground of views to noticeable hills and topography such Hermaness Hill/ Saxa Vord, as seen from the Point of Fethaland at North Roe and to Ronas Hill as seen from Hermaness Hill on Unst in the Hermaness sub-unit of the NSA.
- 5.3.16 The 2020 SEI noted that whilst the Proposed Development may appear as a distant element in some framed coastal views, it would be seen over a long separation distance, within a narrow field of view and would be set back from foreground coastal features. These factors moderated the influence of the Proposed Development on the landscape and coastal character of the NSA sub-units. It concluded that the special landscape qualities of either sub-unit of the Shetland NSA would not be at risk or compromised by the Proposed Development and the overall integrity and objectives of the Shetland NSA would be maintained.
- 5.3.17 This chapter of the SEI 2 assesses how the further revisions to the Proposed Development affect the findings of the 2019 EIA Report and 2020 SEI.
- 5.3.18 The removal of Turbines T5, T6, T8, T9 and T10 from the north western edge of the Proposed Development takes development even further away from the lower lying headland area of Yell, thereby setting the influence of development back from the sensitive coastlines and away from coastal views, as seen across the sea between the islands, and between the adjoining headlands. This turbine reduction also contains the Proposed Development within the moorland interior of Yell, associating it more clearly with a single component of the landscape.
- 5.3.19 The updated LVIA set out in this chapter is accompanied by a separate Special Qualities Assessment, Appendix 5.1, of the effects of the Proposed Development, as revised, on the relevant sub-units of the Shetland NSA.

- 5.3.20 The Special Qualities Assessment concludes that *“Whilst the Proposed Development may appear as a distant element in some coastal views, it will be seen over a long separation distance (at least 12.5 km), within a narrow field of view and will be set back from foreground coastal features. As such the Special Landscape Qualities of the sub areas of the Shetland NSA will not be at risk or compromised by the Proposed Development and the overall integrity and objectives of the Shetland NSA will be maintained.”*

Shetland Islands Council

- 5.3.21 SIC was consulted alongside NS and attended the online meeting held on 14th December 2020. It responded to the SEI 2 Energy Consents Unit Gatecheck by email on 21st May 2021, noting that *“There is no comment in the gate-check document in relation to concerns about the wider cumulative landscape impact with other consented wind farms across Shetland as a whole. Comments on this issue were received from SNH, SAT and Economic Development.”* The cumulative landscape and visual effects of the revised Proposed Development are addressed in this chapter.
- 5.3.22 Prior to the meeting in December 2020, SIC had submitted a consultation to the 2020 SEI from its Natural Heritage Officer (NHO) dated 12th November 2020. The consultation raised matters related to a range of topics, including the following landscape and visual considerations:
- Height of the proposed turbines at 200m (2020 SEI);
 - Remoteness of the site in landscape terms;
 - Significant adverse effects on the Shetland NSA through intervisibility (Hermaness and Fethaland sub-units);
 - Impact on the character of the proposed Local Landscape Areas (LLA);
 - Interpretation of the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development in the Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009);
 - Qualities of wildness in Yell and concern that it was not identified as a Wild Land Area (WLA) by NS;
 - Lack of a Seascape Character Assessment;
 - Overall cumulative impact on the Shetland Islands and whether it amounts to over development; and
 - Application of National Policy relative to wind farm deployment.

Other than the policy implications referred to above, these matters are responded to through this updated chapter.

5.4 Updated Assessment of Residual Effects

- 5.4.1 Following the change in design of the Proposed Development, to remove five turbines and modify other elements of infrastructure, a re-assessment of the residual effects upon the receptors identified in the 2020 SEI has been undertaken. This assessment assumes that all mitigation, detailed within the 2019 EIA Report and 2020 SEI, is undertaken.

Assessment of the revised Landscape and Visual Effects at the Construction Stage

- 5.4.2 Landscape and visual effects during construction/decommissioning phases will be as stated in the 2019 EIA Report and 2020 SEI, with the exception that the Proposed Development is reduced by five turbines with corresponding adjustments to associated infrastructure and borrow pits, as noted in the Project Description in Chapter 3 of SEI 2. It is also the case that the mitigation from further

turbine removal is also likely to reduce the potential visual intrusion from visible aviation lights that would have been installed on them, given their perimeter locations. The construction stage effects will be temporary ones that will be relatively short-term in duration. The turbines will be erected incrementally, and the construction phase of the Proposed Development will not have greater effects upon the landscape resource and visual amenity than the operational phase and no further re-assessment has been undertaken.

Assessment of the revised Residual Landscape Effects at the Operational Stage

- 5.4.3 Identification of residual effects has been undertaken following a review of the revised visibility mapping provided in Figures 5.2.1; 5.2.9; 5.2.10 and 5.2.11 as well as a review of the revised visualisations provided in Figures 5.3.1d(i) to 5.3.21e. This is in addition to original field work assessment by hepla, and the use of computer-generated visualisations in order to inform the judgements made by the Landscape Architects undertaking the assessment and OPEN's Peer Review.

Assessment of the Revised Effects on the Landscape Resource

- 5.4.4 This section comprises the assessment of the residual effects on the landscape resource arising from the Proposed Development, as amended, during the operational period. The effects are residual because they take into account the layout and design optimisation and mitigation measures discussed in Section 5.2 and in Chapter 2 of the 2019 EIA Report and Chapter 3 of the 2020 SEI and this SEI 2.

Duration and Reversibility of Landscape Effects

- 5.4.5 The effects will continue for the permitted life of the Proposed Development, which is expected to be set at 30 years. Following this time period, and in the absence of a renewed consent, the turbines will be removed, and the landscape reinstated – with the majority of the proposed changes being fully reversible upon de-commissioning. The duration and reversibility of landscape effects will be the same with regard to all landscape receptors. This has been taken into account in determining the magnitude of change that would be experienced by each landscape receptor and has, therefore, not been explicitly re-stated with regard to each individual landscape receptor below, to avoid repetition.
- 5.4.6 Any landscape effects that may remain after decommissioning and reinstatement are considered further below, with regard to landscape fabric, character and designations respectively.

Assessment of the revised Effects on Landscape Fabric

- 5.4.7 The extent of the revised Proposed Development site is shown in Figure 1.1. A comparison of the 2020 Layout and 2021 Layout is shown in Figure 3.2. The baseline assessment identified a mosaic of grass and heather moorland as the context for the Proposed Development, which is of Medium sensitivity to change (medium susceptibility, medium value). The Proposed Development site remains focussed on an area of gently undulating moorland set between Omand's Dale in the north and Basta Voe to the south, noting the removal of turbines from an area of open moorland to the north west, around the headwaters of Riven Burn and Rigga Dale. The description of the Proposed Development and estimated land take of the Proposed Development components as revised are provided in Chapter 3 and Chapter 7.
- 5.4.8 Within the Proposed Development site, the turbines and associated infrastructure will lead to the physical loss of discrete areas of moorland through the creation of access tracks, bridges, turbine foundations, crane hardstandings, construction compounds, the formation of borrow pits and the erection of the substation. The works will lead to the loss of a very small proportion of the landscape features within the Proposed Development site. The overall extent of the area directly affected by the Proposed Development will be reduced owing to five fewer turbines being constructed along with associated hardstandings along with a net reduction in access track length required to access them. Turbines, hardstandings and associated tracks will be removed from the south eastern side of the Hill of Markamouth and the Hill of Vigon in the northwest of the site, as shown in Figure 3.2.

- 5.4.9 The total extent of works will not significantly affect the majority of the existing moorland within the Proposed Development site boundary as shown in Figure 3.2, although the effects will be dispersed over a large area. Where elements are lost through temporary construction activity such as borrow pits and construction compounds, these will be subject to restoration and will recover during the operational life span of the Proposed Development. Further reinstatement activity would follow when the wind farm is decommissioned.
- 5.4.10 There will be a **Moderate to Substantial** magnitude of change to the fabric of the landscape (the moorland vegetation and peatland in the location of the proposed tracks, turbines and other infrastructure) at the operational stage of the Proposed Development within the confines of the development footprint, which is of Medium sensitivity. Therefore, there will be a **Major/Moderate** level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**. 2019 EIA Report Table 5.1: LCA: B1, Yell Peatlands LCA provides further information and assessment of the effects on the landscape character of the host landscape, within which the Proposed Development is proposed.

Assessment of the revised Effects on Landscape Character and Designations

- 5.4.11 An overview of the nature of the visibility of the 2021 wind turbine layout (the components most likely to be visible) within the Study Area is provided below.

General Appraisal of Visibility

- 5.4.12 Figure 5.2.1 illustrates the revised blade tip ZTV of the Proposed Development within a 20km radius assuming a consistent tip height of 180m. Figure 5.2.9 provides a comparative blade tip ZTV showing the reduction in ZTV shading that would arise from the removal of five turbines. The areas shaded in blue on Figure 5.2.9 indicate the areas of reduced visibility compared with the ZTV of the 2020 SEI 23 turbine layout.
- 5.4.13 The changes to the Proposed Development will consolidate the wind farm within the moorland interior of Yell, and slightly decrease the extent of visibility from the periphery of Yell including: the coastal edges along the west of Yell; the lower lying promontory of land to the north of the island and a small reduction in visibility from Hermaness Head. The adjustments to the layout shown in Figure 3.2 will reduce the effects on the perceived character of the LLAs located along the coastline to the north west of the site. Importantly, the increased separation from the coastline to the west will benefit views north and south from the North Roe and Unst sub-units of the NSA respectively, by setting the wind farm back visually from the sensitive coastal edge. This additional separation will increase the horizontal extent of undeveloped peatland along the coast, improving the perceived relationship and siting of the wind farm by increasing the scale of its apparent setting, such that the wind farm appears to sit within the elevated peatlands of the interior rather than intruding on the sensitive coastal edge. The improvement to the way that the wind farm interacts with the coastal edge will help to reduce the perceived effects on the special landscape qualities of the NSA. This change will also reduce aspects of the assessment for some landscape/coastal character areas and designations where a reduced magnitude of change has been assessed.

Assessment of the revised Residual Effects upon Landscape and Coastal Character Areas (LCAs/CCAs)

- 5.4.14 This section presents an updated assessment of effects upon LCAs/CCAs within 20km of the Proposed Development, as defined in the *Shetland Isles Landscape Character Assessment*, 1998 and the *Shetland Coastal Character Assessment*, 2016.
- 5.4.15 The location of the LCAs/CCAs is presented in Figure 5.2.10 with the updated ZTV of the Proposed Development overlaid to a 20km limit.
- 5.4.16 Table 5.2 lists and summarises the revised effects on LCAs/CCAs. Whilst the stand-alone effects of the Proposed Development are reduced by the design changes, with a corresponding and proportional reduction in cumulative effects, the overall level of limited cumulative effects remain as stated in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Tables 5.14 to 5.26.

Table 5.2 - Summary of revised Effects on Landscape Character Areas / Coastal Character Areas

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| LCA A3 Ronas Hill | Moderate Not Significant | <p>The LCA is of high sensitivity (medium susceptibility, high value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.14.</p> <p>The Ronas Hill LCA lies to the south west of the Yell Peatlands LCA. The Yell Peatlands LCA forms part of the background of expansive views to the diverse surrounding landscapes of coasts, sea and islands.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a relatively distant moderate-scale man-made feature within the network of settled coast, voes, sounds and the lower peatlands which form a simple backdrop to the expansive views from the uplands. Occurring at a minimum distance of approximately 17.5 km, the turbines will appear as contrasting elements, reducing the sense of scale.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The potential for association extends across the north and north east facing flanks and the summit of Ronas Hill and the Beorgs of Skelberry, as shown in the blade tip ZTV in Figure 5.2.10. Whilst there will be negligible reductions in areas of association, the removal of turbines from the northern extent of the wind farm will reduce the influence on the outlook between the islands. The Proposed Development will be seen to be set back within, and more closely associated with, the interior of Yell.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Slight.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| LCA A4 Unst Uplands | Locally Major/ Moderate Significant from Valla Field Elsewhere Moderate Not Significant | <p>The LCA is of high sensitivity (high susceptibility, high value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.15.</p> <p>The Unst Uplands LCA lies to the north and east of the Yell Peatlands LCA. There are areas of distant association from the south and west facing flanks of the LCA where the Yell Peatlands are seen in the background of</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | <p>the wider outlook to the surrounding sea and coastal edge landscapes.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>From the ridgelines, the Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made feature in the landscape, influencing the perception of scale in wider views. The turbines will be set back within the interior of Yell, above the Bluemull Sound, appearing within the interior of Yell, beyond the foreground context of the settled coastline of north Yell. The outlook of the LCA is greatest with the surrounding foreground of coastlines, cliffs and lowlands. The Proposed Development will be located a minimum distance of approximately 6.5 km from this LCA.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>There will be a slight reduction in outlook from the extreme western flank of Hermaness Hill, as shown in the blade tip ZTV in Figure 5.2.9. The removal of turbines from the north western extent of the wind farm will position the wind farm away from the transitional landscapes on the headland of Yell. This reduces the variance in scale between the turbines and the landform of the interior of Yell, which is able to accommodate the scale of development proposed. Turbines will be drawn back from the Yell headland which lies in the middle ground in the distant outlook to Ronas Hill on North Roe, as shown in the comparative wirelines for Viewpoint 18, Figure 5.3.18e.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate locally from Valla Field, while elsewhere no greater than Slight.</p> | |
| LCA B1 Yell Peatland | Locally Major/moderate Significant | The LCA is of medium sensitivity (medium/low susceptibility, medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.16. | No change to findings of significance |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|---|--|---|
| | <p>within 3km</p> <p>Moderate within 3-5km, Not Significant</p> <p>Elsewhere Moderate/ Minor</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The Proposed Development is located in this LCA.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>Within this open and largely featureless moorland landscape, in which scale is difficult to determine, the Proposed Development will be seen as a large-scale man-made element in the landscape. The turbines will contrast with the colour, texture and movement of the existing moorland.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>There will be a reduction in visibility from the south and south east facing flanks of the Hill of Bakkanalee, Hill of Vignon and Hill of Markamouth in the north of the LCA as the wind farm will be consolidated to the south, within the rolling moorland of central north Yell, as shown in the blade tip ZTV in Figure 5.2.10.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate within 3km to 5km, elsewhere no greater than Moderate/Minor.</p> | <p>presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |
| <p>LCA C2</p> <p>Undulating Moorland with Lochs North Roe</p> <p>Refer to additional assessment in the 2020 SEI Appendix 5.2.</p> | <p>Moderate/ Minor</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The LCA is of medium sensitivity (medium to low susceptibility, high value) as set out in the 2020 SEI, Appendix 5.2.</p> <p>The internal plateau areas of the LCA are enclosed by the undulating terrain and the influence of external landscapes is often limited.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There are more expansive views from the elevated north and east facing slopes on Ronas Hill and at the edges of the plateau where the Proposed Development will be seen on the simple skyline. The Proposed Development will appear as a distant new moderate-scale man-made development, with influence on the perception of scale, at</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|---|---|--|
| | | <p>a minimum distance of approximately 16 km.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The ZTV indicates intermittent, partial visibility. There will be limited areas with more direct visibility, often to all 18 turbines but over distances of greater than 16km, as shown in the blade tip ZTV in Figure 5.2.10.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will be Slight.</p> | |
| LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands | <p>Locally Major/ Moderate Significant</p> <p>from North Yell</p> <p>Elsewhere Moderate or Slight</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The LCA is of medium sensitivity within the context of Bluemull Sound and High elsewhere (medium susceptibility, high value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.17.</p> <p>The LCA occupies the outward facing more sheltered coastal edge, on sloping undulating ground, focussed along the coastal crofting lands and to the coastal landscapes and islands. Views back to the moorland interior of Yell are limited by terrain.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially seen from northern Yell as new large-scale slowly moving turbine blades, within the interior of Yell, and away from coastal views.</p> <p>There will be a more distant association from parts of the LCA within northern Unst, North Roe and the smaller islands. The Proposed Development will form part of the outlook, as a new large-scale element, seen set within the interior of Yell, and influencing the perception of scale.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially seen from northern Yell, at a minimum distance of approximately 1.3 km, near Scordaback.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | <p>There will be a removal of visibility along the western edge of Yell and a reduction in visibility from the north western edges of Yell between Hill of Baakkanalee and North Neaps.</p> <p>The turbines are set back from the strong foreground association with coastal margins. The influence on coastal character reduced by the increased containment of the turbines within the moorland hinterland.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain locally Moderate from north Yell, elsewhere no greater than Slight.</p> | |
| LCA E4 Unst Coastal Crofting | Moderate Not Significant | <p>The LCA is of medium sensitivity within the context of Bluemull Sound and High elsewhere (medium susceptibility, high value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.18.</p> <p>The LCA lies to the south west of Unst and views are directed across the Bluemull sound towards northern Yell, focussed on the sea and coastal landscapes. Views to the interior of Yell are limited by terrain with limited direct association.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be set back from the transitional coastal landscapes which have a greater association with the LCA, appearing within the interior of Yell, at a minimum distance of approximately 4.5 km. There is a limited relationship to directly scalable features in the landscape.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of visibility is the same as the 2020 SEI layout and the consolidation of the wind farm back from the coastal edge into the interior moorland will reduce the extent and influence of the wind farm on the landscape character of Unst.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | The magnitude of change will be Moderate. | |
| <p>LCA F5 Scattered Settlement / Crofting and Grazing Lands</p> <p>Refer to additional assessment in the 2020 SEI Appendix 5.2.</p> | <p>Locally Major/ Moderate Significant</p> <p>Elsewhere Slight Not Significant</p> | <p>The LCA is of medium sensitivity (medium susceptibility, medium value).</p> <p>The LCA includes areas of sheltered coastal settlement and crofting land on the south and east of Yell and North Roe. The outlook is focussed on the coastal edge and away from the interior of Yell and the Yell Peatlands LCA with which there is often limited association.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a large-scale man-made feature within the interior of Yell, away from the coastal edge landscape, at a minimum distance of approximately 1 km, to the south of Gloup. It will be set back from the coastal crofting landscapes and will have less of a direct relationship to features which have a recognisable scale in the landscape.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>There will be a reduction in the visual influence across local areas, in views to the south west from Gloup. The removal of turbines will set the Proposed Development further back into the moorland interior of Yell.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will give rise to a localised Substantial magnitude of change from the vicinity of Sellafirth and Cunnister. Elsewhere in the LCA, effects will be partial and moderated with no greater than a Moderate magnitude of change.</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |
| <p>LCA G1 Coastal Edge</p> | <p>Locally Moderate Not Significant</p> | <p>The LCA is of high sensitivity (high susceptibility, medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.19. The landscape character areas extend along the coastal fringe of the Shetland Islands, comprising frequent cliffs, stacks and 'Geo'. This landscape has a strong</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>association with the sea and forms a foreground to inland landscapes. The Yell Peatlands LCA contributes to the wider background in outlook from the east coast of North Roe (Fethaland in particular) and the west coast of Unst.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development, where visible, will be set back from a close association with the coastal edge landscape, and experienced as part of a varied coastal outlook. It will form a noticeable addition to the landscape. The influence will be tempered by the diversity of views, the intervening terrain, and the minimum separation distance of approximately 1.1 km.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>Reduction in visibility along the western edge of Yell. Elsewhere no reduction in visibility however, the removal of turbines will reduce the extent of the wind farm influence in coastal views and removes turbines from the coastal headland, as evident in Viewpoint 16, Figure 5.3.16e, for example.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Slight.</p> | |
| CCA 12, Bluemull Sound | <p>Locally Moderate from the eastern edge of Bluemull Sound</p> <p>Not Significant</p> <p>Elsewhere no greater than Moderate Minor</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The CCA is of medium sensitivity (low susceptibility, medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.20. The Yell Peatlands LCA is set back from the coastal landscapes and contributes to the backdrop of wider views across the Bluemull Sound CCA. Direct association with the Yell Peatlands LCA is limited.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale vertical man-made element within the interior of Yell, separate to the expansive foreground views to the</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | <p>Bluemull Sound, at a minimum distance of approximately 2.9 km. It will extend across the skyline, beyond the diverse and dominant outlook to the coastal edge, with an influence on the perception of scale. The extent of change will be tempered by the existing presence of Garth Wind Farm.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>There will be no further reduction in the horizontal extent of the Proposed Development but the removal of some turbines, and reduction in height to 180m across the array will reduce the apparent density of the turbines, slightly reducing the influence of the Proposed Development, which will appear closely associated with the interior of Yell.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain locally Moderate from the eastern edge of Bluemull Sound, elsewhere Slight or Negligible.</p> | |
| CCA 14, Colgrave Sound | <p>Locally Moderate from Basta Voe</p> <p>Not Significant</p> <p>Moderate/ Minor elsewhere</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The CCA is of medium sensitivity (medium susceptibility, medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.21. The Yell Peatlands LCA is set back from the coastal edge landscapes and contributes to the backdrop of wider views from the Colgrave Sound CCA. Direct association with the Yell Peatlands LCA is limited.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, at a minimum distance of approximately 1.5 km from Basta Voe and 5 km to the north of the main body of Colgrave Sound. It will be seen in contrast to the low lying profile of Yell, extending across the skyline to the west of Colgrave Sound, beyond the immediate coastal setting. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| | | <p>of the expansive coastal views and will form a noticeable addition to the setting of Colgrave Sound.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The reduction in height of some turbines to 180m overall will set the position of the wind farm more firmly within the interior of Yell, as evident in the view across the Sound from Viewpoint 12, Figure 5.3.12e.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | |
| CCA 18, Gloup Breckon | <p>Locally Major/ Moderate Significant</p> <p>Moderate/ Minor elsewhere</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The CCA is of high sensitivity (high susceptibility, medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.22. The Yell Peatlands LCA is set back from the coastal landscapes and contributes to the backdrop of wider views from the Gloup-Breckon CCA. Direct association is limited.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, at a minimum distance of approximately 1.5 km. It will be partially visible in views to the south, with the majority of the turbines concealed by landform, with only the northernmost turbines partially influencing the expansive coastal outlook to the north.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The removal of five turbines from the north western edge of the wind farm will reduce the influence on the character of the north eastern coastal margin. In areas such as Breckon Sands and the Wick of Breckon there will be a reduction in visibility and influence from the Proposed Development, as evident in the wireline from Viewpoint 5, Sand of Breckon (Figure 5.3.5e). Within Gloup Voe and along the coastal edge of the</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>Ness of Houlland there will remain an indirect influence on coastal character.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate in Gloup Voe and the Ness of Houlland, reducing to Moderate/Minor at the Wick of Breckon and Breckon Sands.</p> | |
| CCA 19, Hermaness | <p>Locally Major/ Moderate Significant south of Wood Wick</p> <p>Elsewhere Not Significant</p> | <p>The CCA is of high sensitivity (high susceptibility, High/Medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.23. The Yell Peatlands LCA is set back from the coastal landscapes and contributes to the backdrop of distant views south from the Hermaness CCA. Direct association is limited.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, in views to the south west, at a minimum distance of approximately 4.7 km.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>There will be a slight reduction in the influence on coastal character at Herma Ness, as evident from the blue shading in Figure 5.2.9. The removal of turbines from the northern extent of the wind farm will position the wind farm away from the transitional landscapes on the headland of Yell, as clearly evident in the comparative wireline for Viewpoint 18, Figure 5.3.18e. Turbines will be moved further away from the foreground of distant outlook to Ronas Hill on North Roe and set back within the interior moorland.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain locally Moderate south of Wood Wick, albeit there will be a discernible reduction in the horizontal extents of the wind farm (as evident in Viewpoint 14, Figure 5.3.14e.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
| | | Elsewhere the visual influence will be Negligible. | |
| CCA 21, Whalefirth | Locally Major/ Moderate Significant Elsewhere Not Significant | <p>The CCA is of high sensitivity (high susceptibility, medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.24. The Yell Peatlands LCA is set back from the coastal landscapes and contributes to the backdrop of the wider outlook from the Whalefirth CCA. Direct association with the Yell Peatlands LCA is limited.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The removal of five turbines from the north western edge of the wind farm will consolidate the position of the wind farm within the interior of Yell and slightly reduce its influence along the western coastal margin of Yell, as evident in the comparative ZTV in Figure 5.2.9. The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, at a minimum distance of approximately 1.5 km. The further mitigation will have a reduced influence on the coastal character of the north and north east facing flank of the headland at the Stuis of Graveland, reducing the perception of scale, as evident in Figure 5.3.8e (Viewpoint 8).</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>Visibility will be slightly reduced along the western edge of Yell following the turbine reduction. Areas of direct visibility will also be slightly reduced from Whalefirth, including from the mouth to the firth. The influence of the Proposed Development on the west coast of Whale Firth and the Nev of Stuis becomes Slight.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will reduce to slight along the coastal edges of the north west side of Whalefirth and the Nev of Stuis, reducing to Negligible elsewhere</p> | Locally Moderate (Not Significant) Elsewhere Not Significant |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | within Whalefirth and the north west coastal edge of Yell. | |
| CCA 24, North Roe Coast | <p>Locally Moderate from the Point of Fethaland and North West Roe</p> <p>Not Significant</p> <p>Elsewhere no greater than Minor</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The CCA is of high sensitivity (high susceptibility, high value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.25. The Yell Peatlands LCA is set back from the coastal landscapes and contributes to the outlook from the north east from the Fethaland and North West Roe CCA. Direct association with the Yell Peatlands LCA is limited.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, in distant views to the north from the exposed headlands of the CCA, at a minimum distance of approximately 12.4 km.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>There will be a slight reduction in the influence on Fethaland and The Breck. The removal of turbines from the western edge of the wind farm will reduce the field of view affected by the Proposed Development and position it further back into the interior of Yell. The magnitude of change will remain locally Slight from the Point of Fethaland and North West Roe, elsewhere Negligible.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| CCA 27, Yell Sound | <p>Moderate from the north western extent of the CCA</p> <p>Not Significant</p> <p>Minor or Negligible</p> <p>Elsewhere</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>The CCA is of high sensitivity (high susceptibility, medium value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.26.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear as a large-scale, man-made, vertical development within the interior of Yell, influencing the outlook from the north western extent of the CCA, with a moderate influence on coastal character and the</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| LCA/CCA | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | <p>perception of scale. It will be seen at a minimum distance of approximately 7 km.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The removal of turbines will reduce the field of view affected and draw the wind farm away from the coastal edge of Yell Sound, as evident in the wirelines for viewpoints 16 and 17. This will reduce the influence on the outlook over the Sound to the northern isles and will consolidate the wind farm within the interior of Yell.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Slight from the north western extent of the CCA, elsewhere Negligible.</p> | |

Summary of effects on Landscape and Coastal Character

5.4.17 The removal of five turbines from the north western extent of the wind farm and importantly from transitional landscapes on the headland of Yell, will consolidate the footprint of the wind farm within the interior of Yell. The influence on the character of the coastal landscapes to the north and west of Yell will be reduced, with reductions in the magnitude of change to LCA G1; CCA 18 and CCA19, albeit not sufficient to mitigate the significant effects identified in the CCAs. The reduction in magnitude within CCA 21, Whalefirth, will however be more discernible and the amendments to the layout will reduce the significance of effect to Not Significant.

5.4.18 In summary, the following LCAs/CCAs will experience reduced visibility of the Proposed Development, with localised reductions to the magnitude of change, however, the overall assessment of significant effects remains largely the same as that reported in the EIA Report: LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands; LCA G1 Coastal Edge; CCA 18, Gloup Breckon; CCA 19, Hermaness; CCA 24 North Roe Coast, CCA 27, Yell Sound. These reductions in magnitude secure important mitigation by reducing the influence of the proposed development on the combined coastal character of the Yell Sound and Whalefirth CCAs. Within CCA 21, Whalefirth, the reduction of visibility is material and the effect becomes Not Significant.

Assessment of the revised Residual Effects on Designated Landscapes

5.4.19 This section considers the implications of the revised proposals on designated and designed landscapes and Wild Land Areas falling within the Study Area. The designated landscapes and designed landscapes listed below have been considered in more detail, following the preliminary analysis of visibility of the Proposed Development, with some designated landscape having been scoped out of the assessment because of the absence of visibility (see 2019 EIA Report Section 5.7.20).

- Shetland National Scenic Area, Hermaness sub-unit (Unst);
- Shetland National Scenic Area, Fethaland sub-unit (North Roe);
- Ronas Hill Local Landscape Area;

- Wick of Tresta, Fetlar Local Landscape Area;
 - Colvadale and Muness, Unst Local Landscape Area;
 - Haroldswick and Skaw Local Landscape Area;
 - Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound Local Landscape Area;
 - West Sandwick to Gloup Holm, Yell, Local Landscape Area;
 - Belmont House, Garden and Designed Landscape; and
 - Brough Lodge Garden and Designed Landscape.
- 5.4.20 The analysis of effects on Designated Landscapes cross references to the assessment of effects on landscape and coastal character, the assessment of visual effects and the cumulative assessment. A separate Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) Assessment on the Special Qualities of National Scenic Areas based on the draft SNH *Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities*, Working Draft November 2018, is set out in Appendix 5.1, and is summarised in Table 5.3 below.
- 5.4.21 The location of the landscape designations is presented in Figure 5.2.11, which illustrates an updated ZTV plan of the Proposed Development overlaid with the landscape designations to a 20km limit.
- 5.4.22 Table 5.3 lists and summarises the revised the implications for landscape designations. Whilst the stand-alone effects of the Proposed Development are reduced by the design changes, with a corresponding and proportional reduction in cumulative effects, the overall level of limited cumulative effects remain as stated in the Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report paragraphs 5.6.34 to 5.6.69, 5.6.74 to 5.6.79, and Tables 5.28 and 5.29.

Table 5.3 - Summary of revised implications for Landscape Designations

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Shetland National Scenic Area: Hermaness (Unst) sub-unit | The sub-unit of the NSA includes parts of LCA A4 Unst Uplands, LCA G1 Coastal Edge LCA and CCA 19 Hermaness which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs and CCAs finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the NSA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects. A Moderate (Not Significant) effect was found to affect | The sub areas of the NSA are located to the north east and the south west of the Proposed Development at minimum distances of 12.5km and 9km respectively. The changes to the Proposed Development through the removal of turbines within the north western extent of the array and the reduction in the height of turbines to 180m will reduce the apparent horizontal and vertical field of view affected (as evident in the wirelines for | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI, but the further mitigation will reduce the perceived effects on the special landscape qualities by increasing separation from the coastline to the west. This will benefit views south from the Unst sub-unit of the NSA, by setting the wind farm back visually from the sensitive coastal edge. This additional separation will increase the horizontal extent of undeveloped peatland along the coast, improving the perceived relationship and siting of the wind farm by increasing the scale of its apparent setting, such that the wind farm appears to sit within the peatland rather |

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|--|--|---|
| | <p>receptors at Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill.</p> <p>The effect on the sub-unit is Not Significant. The Special Landscape Qualities of the Hermaness sub area of the Shetland NSA will not be significantly affected or compromised by the Proposed Development and the overall integrity and objectives of the Shetland NSA will be maintained.</p> | <p>Viewpoints 18 and 16, Figures 5.3.18 e and 5.3.16e respectively) and consolidate the wind farm within a single landscape character type. The changes will draw back turbines from the north western headland of Yell and reduce the influence of the wind farm on coastal views and character. Whilst the Proposed Development may appear as a distant element in some framed</p> | <p>than intruding on the sensitive coastal edge. The improvement to the way that the wind farm interacts with the coastal edge will help to reduce the perceived effects on the special landscape qualities of the NSA.</p> |
| <p>Shetland National Scenic Area: Fethaland (North Roe) sub-unit</p> | <p>The NSA includes parts of LCA C2 North Roe Undulating Moorland with Lochs, LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, LCA G1 Coastal Edge LCA, CCA 24 North Roe Coast, and CCA 27 Yell Sound, which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs and CCAs finds no significant effects on these areas, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects. A Major/Moderate (Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, and Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe.</p> | <p>coastal views, it will be seen over a long separation distance, within a narrower field of view and will be set back from foreground coastal features. These factors will moderate the influence of the Proposed Development on the landscape and coastal character of the NSA sub-areas.</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI, but the further mitigation will reduce the perceived effects on the special landscape qualities by increasing separation from the coastline to the west. This will benefit views north from the North Roe and sub-unit of the NSA, by setting the wind farm back visually from the sensitive coastal edge. This additional separation will increase the horizontal extent of undeveloped peatland along the coast, improving the perceived relationship and siting of the wind farm by increasing the scale of its apparent setting, such that the wind farm appears to sit within the peatland rather than intruding on the sensitive coastal edge. The improvement to the way that the wind farm interacts with the coastal edge will help to reduce the perceived effects on the</p> |

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|--|--|---|
| | <p>The effect on the sub-unit will be Not Significant.</p> <p>The Special Landscape Qualities of the Fethaland sub area of the Shetland NSA will not be significantly affected or compromised by the Proposed Development and the overall integrity and objectives of the Shetland NSA will be maintained.</p> | | <p>special landscape qualities of the NSA.</p> |
| <p>Ronas Hill Local Landscape Area</p> | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA A3 Ronas Hill, and LCA C2 North Roe, which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA.</p> <p>A Major/Moderate Significant effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, North Roe.</p> <p>Overall, the effects on the key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be Not Significant.</p> | <p>This LLA is located to the south west at a minimum distance of approximately 19 km. The removal of turbines from the coastal headland on north Yell will centre the wind farm within the interior of Yell, reducing the influence of the wind farm on the views between the islands and on the landscape character of the LLA.</p> <p>A Moderate Not Significant effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, North Roe, reflecting the discernible reduction in effect at the viewpoint from the consolidation of the wind farm back from the coastline.</p> <p>The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered.</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|--|--|--|
| Wick of Tresta, Fetlar Local Landscape Area | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA B2 Rounded Moorland Hills, and LCA F4 Fetlar Crofting and Grassland. The northern flank of the Lamb Hoga ridgeline within the Rounded Moorland Hills LCA falls partially within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCA B2 finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects.</p> <p>Overall, the effects on the key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be Not Significant.</p> | <p>This LLA is located to the south east at a minimum distance of approximately 12 km. In limited areas at the edge of the LLA the wind farm will have a limited influence on landscape character, reduced marginally by the slight reduction in density.</p> <p>The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be significantly affected.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Colvadale and Muness, Unst Local Landscape Area | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland, and LCA F4 Unst Crofting and Grassland. The eastern elevated edge of the LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland falls partially within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCA B3 finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant</p> | <p>This LLA is located to the east at a minimum distance of approximately 8 km. The wind farm will be visible from a limited sector at the western edges of the LLA. The linear extent of the wind farm will be reduced and seen to occupy a smaller proportion of the view.</p> <p>The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be significantly affected.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|--|---|--|
| | <p>total or additional cumulative effects.</p> <p>Overall, the effects on the key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be Not Significant.</p> | | |
| Haroldswick and Skaw Local Landscape Area | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA A4, Unst Uplands, LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland, LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting, LCA F4 Unst Crofting and Grassland and LCA G1, Coastal Edge. The western flanks of the hills in LCA A4 and LCA B3 fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects.</p> <p>Overall, the effects on the key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be Not Significant.</p> | <p>This LLA is located to the north east at a minimum distance of approximately 14 km. The limited influence on landscape character within the western extent of the LLA will be further reduced through the reduction in the linear extent of the array, as seen in views to the south west.</p> <p>The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be significantly affected.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound Local Landscape Area | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting, LCA F4, Fetlar Crofting and Grassland and LCA F5, Scattered Settlement/ Crofting and Grazing</p> | <p>This LLA abuts the northern edge of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>There will be a reduction in visibility across the north eastern extent of Yell with the removal of turbines, as evident in the wirelines for Viewpoints 2 and 3 in</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|--|---|---|
| | <p>Lands. The assessment of effects on LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing lands identified locally significant effects in north Yell. Moderate not significant additional and total cumulative effects were predicted on the LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting component of the LLA.</p> <p>Across the majority of the LLA, the key characteristics and integrity will not be altered. There will be a local reduction in the scenic qualities experienced from within Gloup Voe.</p> <p>Overall, the effects on the key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be Not Significant.</p> | <p>this area. The appearance of the wind farm will be improved from the areas around Westing at the south western extent of Unst by the removal of turbines from the coastal headland on north Yell and the centring of the wind farm within the interior of Yell, as evident in the wireline for Viewpoint 10 (Figure 5.3.10e). The lowering of turbine height to 180m will also reduce the scale relationship with the designated area.</p> <p>The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be significantly affected.</p> | |
| West Sandwick to Gloup Holm, Yell, Local Landscape Area | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA B1 Yell Peatland, LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, and LCA G1, Coastal Edge. The assessment of effects on LCA B1, Yell Peatland and LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, identified locally significant effects, within 3 km of the Proposed Development on the LLA along the coastal</p> | <p>This LLA extends from the north-west to the south-west at a minimum distance of approximately 900 m.</p> <p>There will be an appreciable reduction in visibility along the western coastal edge of north Yell as a result of the removal of five turbines from the western edge of the wind farm, as evident in the wireline for Viewpoint 8 (Figure 5.3.8e). Where visible the wind farm will be set</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI, but further reduction in intensity and extent of any significant effects due to patchy visibility along western coastal edge of Yell.</p> |

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|---|---|--|
| | <p>edge. Moderate not significant additional and total cumulative effects were predicted on the LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting component of the LLA.</p> <p>The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be very locally altered by the Proposed Development at North Neaps and the Stuis of Graveland, with a localised reduction in the scenic qualities of the LLA.</p> <p>Overall, the effects on the key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be Not Significant.</p> | <p>back from the coastal headland and seen within the interior of Yell. The lowering of turbine height to 180m will also reduce the scale relationship with the designated area.</p> <p>The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be significantly affected.</p> | |
| Belmont House, Garden and Designed Landscape | Major/ Moderate Significant | <p>The IGDL is of high sensitivity (medium susceptibility, high value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.28. This IGDL lies to the east at a minimum distance of approximately 2.67 km.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be a slight reduction in the size and scale of development seen, as evident in the wireline for Viewpoint 9 (Figure 5.3.9e) however, the turbines will be seen as large-scale elements in the view.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Landscape Designation | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Summary of changes | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | Moderate. | |
| Brough Lodge Garden and Designed Landscape | Major/ Moderate Significant | <p>The IGDL is of high sensitivity (medium susceptibility, high value) as set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.29. This IGDL lies to the south east at a minimum distance of approximately 8.35 km.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There are subtle changes to the height of the outlying turbines in the array as a result of the levelling of turbine tip heights to 180m. Some overlapping of turbines is also resolved through removal of five turbines, as evident in the wireline for Viewpoint 12 (Figure 5.3.12e). The turbines of the reduced array will remain as large-scale elements in the view but the array will be seen to achieve a closer fit with the prevailing terrain.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

Summary of effects on Designated Landscapes

- 5.4.23 Effects on the North Roe and Unst sub-units of the Shetland NSA are assessed to remain Not Significant. While presenting a consistent outcome to the 2020 SEI, in terms of the significance of effect, the changes to the layout to remove five turbines and reduce the height of 10 turbines has a discernible benefit in views from the NSA. The increased separation between the coastline and wind farm serves to reduce its perceived association with the coastal landscapes, which are important to the appreciation of the special landscape qualities. In turn, the additional separation improves the scale of the moorland setting on either side of the wind farm which strengthens its association with the core of the Yell uplands.
- 5.4.24 In similar terms there are improvements to the previously identified 2020 SEI, Not Significant, effects on several local landscape areas, including Gloop Voe/Bluemull Sound LLA and West Sandwick to Gloop Holm, Yell LLA, in particular. The removal of turbines and associated infrastructure from the western side of the Proposed Development increases the separation

distance from the West Sandwick to Gloop Holm, Yell LLA (Area 8 on Figure 5.2.11) and reduces actual visibility from within the closest parts of LLA, as confirmed in the comparative ZTV in Figure 5.2.9.

- 5.4.25 The GDLs at Belmont and Brough Lodge are located to the east/ south east of the Proposed Development and would not secure further mitigation as a result of the removal of turbines on the western side, but there would be a perceptible benefit in terms of the reduction in overlapping turbines and achievement of a consistent height to all turbines in the group.

Wild Land

- 5.4.26 Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report reported on effects on the Ronas Hill and North Roe WLA, which is defined on Figure 5.2.11. The assessment concluded that the magnitude of change on the wildness qualities of the WLA will be Slight and Not Significant. The reduction in the turbine footprint of the Proposed Development will slightly reduce the magnitude of change on the WLA, as evident in the wireline from Viewpoint 20 (Figure 5.3.20e), however there will remain a Slight influence on the identified attributes of *“the wider composition of islands, sea, voes, bays and sounds (sense of naturalness, awe inspiring)”*, essentially affecting part of the distant view to the north east. The effect on the Ronas Hill and North Roe WLA will remain Not Significant.

- 5.4.27 In the consultation response of SIC’s NHO to the 2020 SEI, concern is identified that the part of Yell that accommodates the Proposed Development should have been classified as wild land by NatureScot when it drew up its Map of Wild Land Areas across Scotland, in 2014. The process of identification of wild land undertaken by NS was particularly extensive and included both objective, computer based evaluation of physical attributes and subjective evaluation of perceptual qualities. While it is acknowledged that the site area has some wildness qualities, that are assessed along with other characteristics through the landscape character assessment, it remains the case that no part of the site, or wider Yell, was identified by NS as either a Core Area of Wild Land in 2013 or as a Wild Land Area in 2014. Furthermore, NS has not suggested in its advice to the Applicant that the site area should be assessed for its wild land qualities.

Assessment of the revised Residual Effects upon the Visual Resource Effects at the Operational Stage

- 5.4.28 This section presents an updated assessment of the residual visual effects that will be likely to arise from the Proposed Development during the operational period.

- 5.4.29 The following assessment addresses effects on the visual amenity of people, through assessing:

- effects on settlements;
- effects on key transport routes; and
- effects on viewpoints.

Assessment of the revised Effects on Settlements

- 5.4.30 Updated ZTV plans of the Proposed Development, which give an indication of the predicted extents of visibility (both blade tip and hub height) across the settlements, is provided within the visibility mapping in Figure 5.2.1.

- 5.4.31 In accordance with the criteria outlined in the detailed methodology in Appendix 5.1 of the 2019 EIA Report, residential receptors, within settlements in the Study Area, have a high susceptibility to change as views are experienced regularly for prolonged periods, and are generally considered to have a high sensitivity overall to the Proposed Development.

- 5.4.32 Table 5.4 lists and summarises an updated assessment of the predicted effects on the visual amenity that will be experienced by residents of principal settlements within the Study Area. Whilst the stand-alone effects of the Proposed Development are reduced by the design changes, with a corresponding and proportional reduction in cumulative effects, the overall level of limited cumulative effects remain as stated in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report, Tables 5.30 to 5.37.

Table 5.4 - Summary of revised Effects on Settlements

| Settlement | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Southern Cluster: Sellafirth; Cunnister.</p> | <p>Major Significant</p> | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the north, away from the immediate setting of Basta Voe. It will be seen at a minimum distance of approximately 1.5 km.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>Negligible reduction in the extent of visibility. The reduction in the height of some turbines will reduce the apparent turbine height and achieve a greater fit with the scale of the underlying landform. Turbine removal will also achieve a more open array. The extent of the array will remain at c.60°.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Substantial.</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |
| <p>Eastern Cluster: Stronganess ; Cullivoe; Greenbank.</p> | <p>Moderate/ Minor Not Significant Stronganess and Greenbank</p> <p>Major/ Moderate Significant Cullivoe</p> | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in partial views as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the west. It will be seen at a minimum distance of approximately 2.3 km. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction to the principal direction of views from the settlement which face across Bluemull Sound to the east. The turbines will remain as large, new, elements in views to the west.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain locally Moderate from the centre of Cullivoe and generally Slight elsewhere.</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |
| <p>North Eastern Cluster: Haa of Houlland; Midbrake; North and</p> | <p>Moderate/ Minor Not Significant Breckon</p> | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in partial views as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the south west. It will be seen at a</p> | <p>No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI.</p> |

| Settlement | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|--|---|--|
| South Brough; Breckon. | Elsewhere Major/ Moderate Significant | <p>minimum distance of approximately 2.47 km. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction to the principal direction of views from the settlement which face across Bluemull Sound to the east.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>Slight reduction in the extent of visibility from the north eastern settlement cluster narrows field of view affected (see Viewpoint 3-Figure 5.3.3e). Parts of five turbines will be removed in views from the north western edge of the wind farm.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will reduce to Slight from Breckon (see Viewpoint 5), remaining Moderate elsewhere.</p> | |
| Northern Cluster: Gloop; The Kirks | Major/ Moderate Significant | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in partial views as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the south, at a minimum distance of approximately 2 km, as shown in Figure 5.8.4c. The closer and larger turbines, at the north western edge of the wind farm will be removed, with the remaining turbines seen to be set back in the distance, within the interior of Yell. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction to the principal direction of views from the settlement which face towards the Atlantic to the north.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The removal of the northern turbines will greatly reduce the extent of visibility, especially from East Gloop (see Figure 5.8.5c) where it will be removed altogether. From slightly further north, turbines will be seen to the south closely associated with the interior of Yell and seen in framed views along Gloop Voe.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will be reduced to Moderate, and only within the Kirks cluster, as a result of the removal of five turbines.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI, with exception of East Gloop where visibility is removed. |

| Settlement | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|--|--|--|
| Belmont | Major/ Moderate Significant | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially seen in views across Bluemull Sound as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell. It will be seen at a minimum distance of approximately 4.7 km. The Proposed Development will be viewed to the west, away from the principal orientation of views from the settlement which face south towards the Wick of Belmont and Bluemull Sound to the south.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>There will be a slight reduction in the number of visible turbines, but the overall width of the array will not change. The profile of the adjusted array will be seen to follow the underlying landform. The incremental change reduces the visual density of the wind farm however, it will not alter the overall magnitude of change.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Westing Cluster: Burragarth; Underhoull; Houllnan; Westing; Newgord | Major/ Moderate Significant | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in direct views across Bluemull Sound as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, at a minimum distance of approximately 6.6 km (Westing). The Proposed Development will be viewed within the principal direction of views from the settlement towards Bluemull Sound.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>There will be a reduction in the extent of visibility from the Westing Cluster following the removal of the north western turbines, as evident in the wireline from Viewpoint 10 (Figure 5.3.10e). The profile of the adjusted array will be seen to closely follow to the profile of the underlying landform, with some prominent turbines. The incremental change reduces the visible extent of the wind farm however, it will not alter the overall magnitude of change.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Settlement | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | The magnitude of change will remain Moderate. | |
| Mid Yell | Moderate Not Significant | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen towards the interior of Yell as a noticeable, new man-made development, located away from the expansive views to Mid Yell Voe to the east, at a minimum distance of approximately 8 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The wind farm will be partially visible only from the higher ground at the southern edge of the settlement. There will be minor changes, slightly reducing the number of visible turbines.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Slight.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| North Roe beside Burra Voe | Moderate Not Significant | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views as a discernible, new man-made development on the ridgeline of Yell, beyond Yell Sound, at a minimum distance of approximately 17.3 km. The Proposed Development will only be visible from properties at the southern edge of Burra Voe, from where the reduction in number of turbines will be beneficial, as evident in the wireline for Viewpoint 19 (Figure 5.3.19e).</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>There will be an appreciable change to the 2020 SEI layout from Burra Voe, further reducing the magnitude of change from the Proposed Development, through the removal of the five westernmost turbines, discernibly reducing the extent of the array.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will become locally Slight from the south of the settlement.</p> | No change to findings of 2020 SEI, but magnitude of change at Burra Voe will be reduced. |

Summary of effects on Settlements

- 5.4.33 The removal of five turbines from the western side of the Proposed Development will benefit most the areas of Yell that are located on the western and northern sides. This does not include any notable settlement. There will be a reduction in visibility in views from the north, including from the closest properties at East Gloup, where turbine visibility will be removed altogether. At the

Kirks, the magnitude of effect will reduce to Moderate. From the majority of settlement, which is located to the northeast; east; south east and south, the turbine removal will have a less discernible reduction in visibility although in some instances the perceived overlapping of turbines will be reduced.

Assessment of the revised Effects on Routes

- 5.4.34 The effects on routes and receptors, including the limited cumulative effects, remain unchanged from the assessment grades recorded in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report, Tables 5.39 - 43. The turbines removed in the north west of the wind farm are distant from the transport routes and, therefore, the extent of visibility to the reduced wind farm remains broadly the same. The reduction in height of ten turbines to 180m introduces incremental change, assisting integrating the array with the prevailing landform, however, the overall magnitude of change in views is unchanged. Whilst there will be sections of routes where visibility will be reduced, the overall magnitude of change and significance of effect on the route corridors will not change from that presented in the 2020 SEI.

Assessment of the revised Residual Effects at Viewpoints

- 5.4.35 Updated wireframes and photomontages illustrating the predicted views from each of the 21 viewpoint locations are illustrated in Figures 5.3.1d(i) to 5.3.21e.
- 5.4.36 For the purposes of assessing the effects on visual amenity, the sensitivity of the receptors is as defined in Appendix 5.1 of the 2019 EIA Report and as defined in detail in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Tables 5.44 to 5.65.
- 5.4.37 Table 5.5 lists and summarises an updated assessment of the predicted effects on the visual amenity of receptors at the viewpoints. The limited cumulative effects remain as stated in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Tables 5.44 to 5.65.

Table 5.5 - Summary of revised Effects on Viewpoints

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (Size or Scale and Geographical Extent) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Viewpoint 1, Tittyans Hill, Yell | Major effect on walkers, and a Major/ Moderate effect on crofters. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: All 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: All 18 turbines to hub height</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Walkers – High Crofters – Medium</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The turbines will remain very large in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 0.55 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will remain at c.81° angle of view.</p> <p>The turbines removed are at the north western edge of the array and will not alter the</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|---|---|--|
| | | <p>prominence of the wind farm and the magnitude of change seen in this local view from the south east.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Substantial.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 2, Fishermen's Memorial, Gloup, Yell | Major/Moderate effect on residents, walkers and visitors. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 7 turbines to Hub Height, 6 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 5 turbines to Hub Height, 4 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Residents/ Walkers/ Visitors – High</p> <p>Crofters – Medium</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The prominent turbines at the north western extent of the array will be removed, reducing the horizontal extent of the wind farm. The turbines will be seen within the interior of Yell, away from the coastal edge, at a minimum distance of approximately 1.85 km. There will be a reduction in the apparent scale of development seen due to topographic screening however, a medium scale influence will remain on the framed view to the south along Gloup Voe.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.27° (reduced by 21°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate. leading to a Major/Moderate effect which remains significant, albeit of a lower order.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 3, Haa of Houlland, Yell | Major/Moderate effect on residents. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 8 turbines to Hub Height, 14 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 5 turbines to Hub Height, 11 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Residents – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The most north westerly five turbines in the original layout will be removed. The containment by the intervening landform will mean the turbines will appear to be set back further into the interior of Yell. The turbines will remain very large in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 2.47 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.33° (reduced by 17°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 4, Cullivoe | Major/ Moderate effect on residents and visitors. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 5 turbines to Hub Height, 14 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 5 turbines to Hub Height, 8 turbines to parts of blades</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Residents / Visitors – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The more prominent turbines will be reduced in height however, they will remain as very large elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 2.40 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.46° (no change) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 5, Sands of Breckon | Moderate effect on walkers and visitors. Not Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 1 turbine to Hub Height, 4 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 1 turbine to Hub Height, 2 turbines to parts of blades</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Walkers / Visitors – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>Two turbine blade tips will be removed from the coastal headland, narrowing the field of view affected. This will reduce the remaining visibility to one partial hub with parts of two turbine blades, further reducing the direct influence on the viewpoint. The viewpoint is located a minimum distance of approximately 3.13 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.15° (reduced by 20°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Slight.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 6, A968 Colvister, Yell | Major/Moderate effect on road users and a Major effect on cyclists Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: All 23 turbines to Hub Height</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 17 turbines to Hub Height, 1 turbine to parts of blades</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Cyclists – High</p> <p>Road users – Medium</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The turbines will remain as very large-scale elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 3.26 km from this viewpoint. Removal of five turbines will reduce the apparent density in parts of the wind farm, reducing overlapping of rotors but will lead to a perceived gap between T13 and T14 which will increase perception of outliers, partially concealed behind the hillside.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will remain at c.40° angle of view, despite the removal of five turbines from this view and the resultant reduction in overall density of turbines.</p> <p>The reduction in height and greater consistency resulting to the height of turbines will be discernible from this viewpoint, the array will be seen to achieve a closer fit with the prevailing terrain within the interior of Yell - consolidating the wind farm within a single landscape type. This</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|---|---|--|
| | | change subtly integrates the wind farm with the prevailing landscape features and improves the composition of the wind farm in views. The magnitude of change will remain Substantial. | |
| Viewpoint 7, Cunnister, Basta Voe, Yell | Major effect on residents Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: All 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: All 18 turbines to Hub Height</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i> Residents – High As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i> The turbines will remain as very large-scale new elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 3.61 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i> The extent of the visible array will remain at c.35° angle of view, despite the removal of five turbines from this view.</p> <p>The turbine spacing will be beneficially eased through the removal of five turbines and the array will be seen to achieve a closer fit with the prevailing terrain. The wind farm will be seen set back within the interior of the Yell Peatland Landscape, framed by the surrounding low hills, which provide a level of containment and setting.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Substantial.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 8, Nev of Stuis, Yell | Major/ Moderate effect on walkers. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 8 turbines to Hub Height, 15 turbines to parts of blades SEI 2 Layout: 2 turbines to Hub Height, 16 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i> Walkers – High As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i> The number of visible turbines will be reduced from 23 to 18, with 8 of these seen as blade tip extremities, removing five prominently</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>positioned turbines from the north west of the array. The turbines will be substantially concealed by the intervening landform, setting the Proposed Development further inland and with a weaker association with the coastline. The turbines will appear to be set back further into the interior of Yell. The closest turbines of the reduced array will remain as large-scale elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 4.23 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.22° (reduced by 10°) angle of view. The removal of five prominent turbines will notably reduce the horizontal extent of the Proposed Development and ensure it appears set back further from the coastal edge.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will reduce to Moderate. Given the High sensitivity of walkers to the viewpoint, it will remain Major/ Moderate and Significant, but is of borderline significance.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 9, Belmont House, Unst | Major/ Moderate effect on visitors. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 12 turbines to Hub Height, 11 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 8 turbines to Hub Height, 9 turbines to parts of blades</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Visitors – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be a slight reduction in the apparent density of the development. However, the turbines will still be seen as large-scale elements in the view, at a minimum distance of approximately 4.69 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.28.5° (no change) angle of view. There will be five fewer blade tips visible in this view, such that the overall density of the Proposed Development will be slightly eased.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (Size or Scale and Geographical Extent) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|---|---|--|
| | | The magnitude of change will remain Moderate. | |
| Viewpoint 10, Westing, Unst | Major/ Moderate effect on residents. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 16 turbines to Hub Height, 2 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i> Residents – High As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i> There will be a reduction in the size and scale of development seen, including the removal of prominent and outlying turbines to the west that will reduce the association with the coastline. However, the remaining turbines will be seen as large-scale elements in the view, at a minimum distance of approximately 6.65 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i> The extent of the visible array will be c.18° (reduced by 7°) angle of view. With five fewer turbines visible, the overall field of view affected will be eased.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 11, Grimster, Whale Firth, Yell. | Minor effect on residents. Not Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 3 upper parts of turbine blades SEI 2 Layout: No visibility of turbines</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i> Residents – High As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i> The removal of five turbines will remove all remaining visibility of the wind farm from this viewpoint.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i> The magnitude of change will become None.</p> | No effect on residents. Not Significant |
| Viewpoint 12, Brough | Major/ Moderate | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 18 turbines to Hub Height</p> | No change to findings of significance |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| House, Fetlar | effect on visitors. Significant | <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Visitors – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There are subtle changes to the height of outlying turbines to the north of the array, which reduces the overall vertical prominence. The removal of five turbines will further reduce the apparent density of turbines in the view and reduce incidences of overlapping rotors. The turbines will be seen to be set back further into the interior of Yell but will remain as moderately scaled elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 9.95 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.15.5° (no change) angle of view.</p> <p>Whilst the changes to the height of turbines will not be easily discernible from this viewpoint, the apparent density of the turbine spacing will be beneficially eased through the removal of five turbines. Through the containment of the array away from the coastal edge, it will be seen to achieve a closer fit with the prevailing terrain.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 13, A968 / NCR1 Mid Yell. | Moderate/ Minor effect on road users and a Moderate effect on cyclists. Not Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 4 turbines to Hub Height, 19 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 18 turbines to parts of blades</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Road Users – Medium</p> <p>Cyclists – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There are discernible changes to the height and density of the array. The visual influence of the Proposed Development is reduced with the removal of five turbines and the majority of the visible turbines being partly screened by the</p> | Minor effect on road users and a Moderate to Minor effect on cyclists, Not Significant |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|---|--|---|--|
| | | <p>intervening landform. The partially visible turbines of the reduced array will be small scaled elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 10.33 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.13.5° (reduced by 2°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will reduce and become Negligible.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 14, Wood Wick, Unst. | Major/Moderate effect on walkers. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 16 turbines to Hub Height, 2 turbines to parts of blades</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Walkers – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be visible changes to the height and extent of the array, with in particular the removal of five turbines from the western coastal headland. The turbines of the reduced array will be moderately scaled elements in the view, positioned within the upland interior of Yell, away from the coastal headland, and seen at a minimum distance of approximately 11.35 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.9° (reduced by 6°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate, and Significant, but of a borderline/precautionary nature.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 15, B9081, Hill of Reafirth, Yell | Moderate effect on road users. Not Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 18 turbines to Hub Height</p> <hr/> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Road Users – Medium</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|---|--|--|
| | | <p>There will be subtle changes to the apparent density and height of the array, which will remain prominent in the line of sight from the road, when approaching from the south. The turbines of the reduced array will remain as moderately scaled elements in the view seen at a minimum distance of approximately 11.85 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.12.5° (reduced by 1°) angle of view. There will be five fewer turbines visible in this view and while the horizontal extent will remain largely unchanged, the density of the Proposed Development will be eased.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate, given the directional focus of the view.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, North Roe. | Major/ Moderate effect on walkers. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 18 turbines to Hub Height</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Walkers – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There are noticeable changes to the horizontal and vertical extent of the array, with the removal of five turbines at the north western extent. The turbines of the reduced array will be moderately to small scaled elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 12.46 km. The beneficial effects resulting from turbine removal will help to recede the Proposed Development further back from the coastline, thereby reducing its prominence in views across Yell Sound.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.10° (reduced by 4°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate, and of Major/ Moderate significance, but of a borderline/ precautionary nature.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe. | Major/ Moderate effect on walkers. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 18 turbines to Hub Height</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Walkers – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be noticeable changes to the array, with the removal of five turbines at the north western extent reducing the apparent field of view affected and distancing the Proposed Development from the coastline. The turbines of the reduced array will be moderately to small scaled elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 14.72 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.8° (reduced by 4°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate, and of Major/ Moderate significance, but of a borderline/ precautionary nature.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill, Unst. | Moderate effect on walkers. Not Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 18 turbines to Hub Height</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Walkers – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be noticeable changes to the array, with the removal of five turbines at the north western extent discernibly reducing the apparent horizontal and vertical extents of the Proposed Development. The turbines of the reduced array will be small scaled elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 17.75 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.6.5° (reduced by 3°) angle of view. Five prominent turbines will be removed from the western side</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--|---|---|--|
| | | <p>of the array, increasing separation between it and the coastline, further integrating the wind farm into the core of the Yell uplands and away from the coastal headland.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Slight.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 19, Burra Voe, A970, North Roe. | Moderate effect on residents, Moderate/ Minor effect on road users. Not Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 11 turbines to Hub Height, 7 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Residents – High Road Users - Medium</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be a discernible reduction in the horizontal extents of the array, with the removal of turbines at the north western extremity. The turbines of the reduced array will be distant and small scaled elements in the view, seen at a minimum distance of approximately 17.38 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.6.5° (reduced by 4°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will become Slight.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, North Roe, Mainland. | Major/ Moderate effect on walkers. Significant | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height SEI 2 Layout: 18 turbines to Hub Height</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Walkers – High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be a discernible reduction in the horizontal width of the array, with the removal of five turbines at the north western extent, setting the wind farm back from the coastal headland. The turbines of the reduced array will remain as distant and small scaled elements in the view,</p> | Moderate effect on walkers. Not Significant |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (Size or Scale and Geographical Extent) | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>seen at a minimum distance of approximately 25.22 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.5° (reduced by 2.5°) angle of view, representing a one-third reduction in the field of view affected.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will be Slight, resulting in a reduction to Moderate significance, and Not Significant.</p> | |
| Viewpoint 21, A968 Hill of Swinster. | <p>Minor effect on road users and a Moderate/Minor effect on cyclists.</p> <p>Not Significant</p> | <p>2020 SEI Layout: 2 turbines to Hub Height, 19 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p>SEI 2 Layout: 15 turbines to parts of blades</p> <p><i>Receptors and Sensitivity</i></p> <p>Road Users – Medium</p> <p>Cyclists - High</p> <p>As set out in Chapter 5 of the 2019 EIA Report Table 5.65.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>There will be a slight reduction in the number of turbines visible, with no turbine hubs remaining visible above the skyline. The turbines will be very small scale features seen at a minimum distance of approximately 27.70 km.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.5° (reduced by 1°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Negligible.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

Summary of effects on Visual Receptors

5.4.38 The removal of five turbines and reduction in height of a further ten turbines to 180m has a beneficial effect on the views available at a number of the representative viewpoints. In the case of four viewpoints, 8, 14, 16 and 17, the magnitude of change has reduced although the effect is assessed to remain significant, on a precautionary basis. These viewpoints are described as being 'borderline' significant because the magnitude of change is considered to be just inside the threshold of significance defined in the LVIA Methodology. In the case of three further viewpoints, 12, 13 and 19, the magnitude of effect reduces with the turbine removal, but the significance of effect is not altered. In the case of viewpoint 11, the visual effect is removed altogether.

- 5.4.39 At viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, a previously assessed significant visual effect is assessed to be reduced to Not Significant. This viewpoint is located within the North Roe Wild Land Area and demonstrates a reduction in impact at the core of the area.
- 5.4.40 While there is not a substantial change to the number of viewpoints where significance of effect is reduced by the amendment to the layout, it is evident from the assessment that the removal of five turbines (and reduction in height of ten) brings tangible benefit in terms of the reduction in magnitude of change, which is considered beneficial in visual terms.

Revised Residual Night Time Lighting Assessment

Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report

- 5.4.41 A detailed assessment of the operational effects of night time lighting is set out in Appendix 5.5 of the 2019 EIA Report. Since preparing the original lighting assessment, the Applicant has engaged Wind Power Aviation Consultants Ltd (WPAC) to prepare a Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report for the 2021 Layout. This is submitted as Appendix 13.1 to Chapter 13 of SEI 2. The Aviation Lighting Report summarises its scope as proposing “*a lighting design that is compliant with existing and draft (but soon to be ratified) regulations and guidance contained within References A to D and F as discussed with the CAA and the MOD. It explains the rationale behind the lighting design taking into account the requirement to minimise the number of turbines illuminated with aviation obstruction lights whilst maintaining flight safety and provides a detailed assessment of the brilliance of the lighting when viewed from a number of viewpoints selected by the LVIA consultant after consultation with the relevant stakeholders. Part 2 of the report identifies and explains those mitigation measures that can be utilised to minimise the environmental effect of the lights including an assessment of the historical meteorological data from which to predict the luminous intensity requirements for the lights.*”
- 5.4.42 The Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report was submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in August 2021 and was approved by the CAA in its letter to WPAC dated 13th August 2021, with one amendment that turbine 21 is lit with medium intensity aviation lighting as opposed to turbine 15.
- 5.4.43 The Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report proposes a reduced lighting scheme for the Proposed Development, whereby a selection of peripheral turbines is proposed to be lit with medium intensity, visible, aviation lighting. Figure 3 in the Lighting Report identifies 2,000 candela (cd) lights on the nacelles of eleven of the eighteen turbines, which are T11, T12, T14, T16, T19, T20, T21, T24, T25, T26 and T28. The same turbines (together with T15) would also be fitted with infrared lights for military and rescue aviation purposes. Infrared lights are not visible to the naked human eye.
- 5.4.44 Additional low intensity visible lights (32cd) would be mounted in the middle of the turbine towers of five turbines T12, T16, T20, T26 and T28, as required under the Air Navigation Order (ANO) Article 222, section 6. Three 32cd lights would be fitted to each of these turbines to provide 360 degree visibility in the horizontal plane.
- 5.4.45 In addition to a reduced number of turbines being fitted with nacelle lights, further mitigation can be achieved through permitted dimming of the 2,000cd visible nacelle lights to 10% of their intensity (200cd), when visibility in all direction from the wind turbines is greater than 5km, as measured by a visibility sensor mounted on a turbine. Paragraphs 18 to 19 of the Lighting Report evaluate the frequency that the nacelle lights may operate at 2,000cd/ 200cd, based on historical visibility data from the closest meteorological station at Unst Airport. This analysis suggests that the visible lighting will operate at 2,000cd for only 8% of the night time, with the lights running in their reduced intensity mode of 200cd for 92% of the night time. This demonstrates some valuable mitigation of lighting intensity. It is also the case that when the lights are operating at 2,000cd, it follows that visibility is poor which may interfere with the perceived visibility of the lights.
- 5.4.46 The Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report also considers (paragraph 22) the interference of weather conditions (low cloud base) on the likely visibility of the nacelle lights and finds that between 300 and 700 occasions a month (time of year depending), the cloud-base will be below the turbine hub

- heights, and between 100 and 400 occasions a month, the cloud base will range around the turbine base heights, effectively obscuring all lighting.
- 5.4.47 The design of the technology used within the lamps that are fitted to medium intensity aviation lights is constantly being improved, in the sense that the width of horizontal light beam emitted from the unit can be tightly controlled to deliver the minimum required intensities at different angles from the horizontal plane. Based on the technical data for a specified light fitting, the ZTV in SEI 2 Figure 5.7.5 maps the intensity of light at different locations around the Proposed Development. The colours used in the ZTV relate to 2,000cd/ 200cd light intensities shown in the key on Figure 5.7.5. Furthermore, the Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report has assessed the intensity of light that would be perceived at each of the representative viewpoints used in the LVIA, from each of the turbines with nacelle lights. The findings are presented in tables below Figure 7 in the Report.
- 5.4.48 The Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report also considers a form of mitigation which is currently in use in other parts of Europe, whereby the visible lights are controlled through an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS). This system operates by radar detection or electronic conspicuity devices ('transponders') mounted on aircraft, which detect an aircraft entering a defined volume of airspace around the wind farm and switching on the lights for a short duration, while the aircraft transits the airspace. This form of mitigation offers significant visual benefit, as the lights are likely to be switched on for very limited occasions at night. The Lighting Report notes in paragraph 24 that *"There are some significant technical and regulatory issues to be overcome before any such system can be installed and operated."* It also notes in paragraph 28 that the length of time for delivery of a transponder based solution in the UK *"is difficult to estimate, however, realistically it is likely to be within a two to five year timeframe as it is part of a much wider airspace modernisation programme currently under way."*
- 5.4.49 The Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report demonstrates that a range or 'hierarchy' of mitigation can therefore be integrated into the Proposed Development, as approved by the CAA, which can reduce the likely effects from visible aviation lighting. This includes:
1. By reducing the number of obstruction lights;
 2. The inbuilt 'beam' control through advanced technological design (which aligns with the Air Navigation Order compliant lighting);
 3. Controlled attenuation in good visibility ('dimming')
 4. Radar controlled lighting.
- 5.4.50 The mitigation secured through the reduced lighting scheme that has been approved by the CAA offers real benefit in terms of the reduction of visible light at night. The benefits of a reduced scheme are noted in the SIC Natural Heritage Officer's consultation response to the 2020 SEI, where the following advice is noted:
- "In response to the original application, I said that, to minimise the impact of turbine lighting the following should be requested:*
- *Use of radar activated lighting*
 - *Reduced the number of turbines to be lit (e.g. by using so-called cardinal lighting)*
 - *Reduction in light intensity by up to 90% when visibility exceeds 5km*
 - *Use of lenses to reduce the intensity of the light when the viewing angle moves away from the horizontal*
 - *Removal of the intermediate low level red lighting."*
- 5.4.51 While radar or transponder activated lighting is an emerging technology which is not yet proven through application in the UK, and cannot yet be implemented here, the Applicant has acted on the above advice to secure meaningful reduction in the number of visible lights that would be deployed

at the Proposed Development, both in terms of medium intensity nacelle lights and low intensity tower lights. This mitigation reduces the effects of night time lighting.

Assessment of night time effects

- 5.4.52 The following table lists and summarises an updated assessment of the predicted effects on the visual amenity of receptors at night-time, from the selected viewpoints taken from neighbouring areas of settlement.
- 5.4.53 Updated, comparative photomontages illustrating the predicted views from each of the three night-time lighting viewpoints are illustrated in Figures 5.7.1e; 5.7.2e and 5.7.3e. A comparative ZTV (Figure 5.7.4) indicates the extent of the nacelle and tower lighting, while Figure 5.7.5 provides a ZTV of the Aviation Lighting Intensity, based on the nacelle mounted medium intensity lighting requirement.
- 5.4.54 For the purposes of assessing the effects on visual amenity, the sensitivity of residential receptors is ‘high’, as defined in Appendix 5.1 of the 2019 EIA Report and as defined in detail in Appendix 5.5 of the 2019 EIA Report, Tables 5.1 – 5.3.
- 5.4.55 It should be noted that the assessment of the operational effects of night time lighting within the 2019 EIA Report takes precautionary approach and is based on a very worst-case scenario of all the turbines being mounted with medium intensity (2,000cd) steady red warning lights at the top of the turbine hubs and three low-intensity (32cd) lights mounted on the turbine towers. Since the 2020 SEI was prepared, and as described above, the CAA has approved a reduced lighting scheme for the Proposed Development. The updated assessment in SEI 2 is therefore based on the reduced lighting scheme and the visualisations compare the 2020 Layout with the recently approved mitigation, to demonstrate the benefits secured.

Table 5.6 - Summary of revised Effects on Night Time Lighting Assessment Viewpoints

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (Size or Scale and Geographical Extent) | Significance of |
|--|---|--|---|
| Night-time Viewpoint 1, Haa of Houlland, Yell (LVIA VP3) | Major/ Moderate effect on residents. Significant | <p>2020 Layout: 8 turbines to Hub Height, 14 turbines to parts of blades.</p> <p>2021 Layout: 5 turbines to hub height; 11 turbines to parts of blades.</p> <p>Visible lights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nacelle lights visible on T26 (39cd) and T28 (43cd) • Tower lights visible on T26 (32cd) | Moderate to Minor effect on residents. Not Significant |
| | | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The proposed aviation lighting is illustrated in Figure 5-7-1e (53.5 degree field of view) at a distance of 2.47 km from the settlement at the Haa of Houlland. The extent of lighting will vary from being dimly visible at low light, more resolved and noticeable at dusk, to being seen as a clear red light at darkness.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> | |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (Size or Scale and Geographical Extent) | Significance of |
|--|--|---|---|
| | | Two medium intensity nacelle lights and one low intensity tower light will be discernible at night. The magnitude of change will reduce to Slight with the reduction in numbers of lights seen. | |
| Night-time Viewpoint 2, Cunnister, Yell (LVIA VP7) | Major effect on residents. Significant | 2020 Layout: 22 turbines to Hub Height, 1 turbine to parts of blades. 2021 Layout: 18 turbines to hub height. Visible lights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacelle lights visible on T11, T12, T14, T16, T19, T20, T21, T24, T25, T26 and T28 Tower lights visible on T12 and T20 (32cd). | Major/ Moderate effect on residents. Significant |
| | | <i>Size or Scale</i> The proposed aviation lighting is illustrated in Figure 5.7.2e (53.5 degree field of view) at a distance of 3.61 km from the settlement at Cunnister. The extent of lighting will vary from being dimly visible at low light, more resolved and noticeable at dusk, to being seen as a clear red light at darkness. <i>Geographical Extent</i> 18 medium intensity nacelle lights and three low intensity tower lights will be discernible at night. With the removal of five turbines and associated lighting, the magnitude of change will reduce to Moderate. | |
| Night-time Viewpoint 3, Westing, Unst (LVIA VP10) | Major effect on residents. Significant | 2020 Layout: 22 turbines to Hub Height, 1 turbine to parts of blades. 2021 Layout: 17 turbines to hub height; 1 turbine to parts of blades. Visible lights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nacelle lights visible on T11, T12, T14, T19, T20, T21, T24, T25, T26 and T28 Tower lights visible on T26 and T28 (32cd) | Major/ Moderate effect on residents. Significant |
| | | <i>Size or Scale</i> The proposed aviation lighting is illustrated in Figure 5.7.3e (53.5 degree field of view) at a distance of 6.65 km from the settlement at | |

| Viewpoint | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (Size or Scale and Geographical Extent) | Significance of |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------|
| | | <p>Westing, in the context of a considerable amount of baseline lighting. The extent of lighting will vary from being dimly visible at low light, more resolved and noticeable at dusk, to being seen as a clear red light at darkness.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>10 medium intensity nacelle lights and two low intensity tower lights will be discernible at night.</p> <p>With the removal of five turbines and associated lighting, the magnitude of change will remain Moderate.</p> | |

Summary of effects from Visible Aviation Lighting

5.4.56 The approval by the CAA of proposals for a reduced lighting scheme as set out in the Wind Farm Aviation Lighting Report will reduce the amount and intensity of visible aviation lighting at night at the representative viewpoints. The visual effects will reduce at one of the locations, LVIA Viewpoint 3 to Not Significant and the magnitude of effect will reduce at the remaining two locations, securing positive mitigation at night time.

Revised Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)

5.4.57 A RVAA was prepared for properties within a radius of 2 km to the Proposed Development to determine whether the RVAA Threshold (RVAAT) had been reached, as set out in Appendix 5.6 of the 2019 EIA Report. The RVAA concluded that none of the properties had reached the RVAAT.

5.4.58 For the purposes of assessing the effects on Residential Visual Amenity the detailed methodology is as set out in Appendix 5.6 of the 2019 EIA Report which draws upon the guidance set out in Technical Guidance Note 2/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment, Landscape Institute, 2019. The purpose of RVAA is to provide an informed, well-reasoned answer to the question: ‘is the effect of the development on Residential Visual Amenity of such nature and / or magnitude that it potentially affects ‘living conditions’ or ‘Residential Amenity’. This is referred to in the guidance document as the RVAAT.

5.4.59 Table 5.7 summarises the updated assessment of predicted effects on the properties within the selected settlement clusters and reviews whether the RVAAT threshold is reached.

5.4.60 Updated plans and wireframes illustrating the predicted views from each of the five selected settlement clusters are illustrated in Figures 5.8.1a to 5.8.5c.

Table 5.7 - Summary of revised Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

| RVAA Property Cluster | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) and RVAA Conclusion | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) and Analysis of RVAA Threshold | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) and RVAA Conclusion |
|--|--|--|--|
| Property Cluster 1: New House, Up House, Sellafirth House, School House/Old School House, Sellafirth Road | Major effect on residents. Significant The residents will not experience impacts on the visual component of residential amenity or living conditions. The RVAA threshold is not reached. (see table end note) | 2020 Layout: 23 turbines to Hub Height. 2021 Layout: 18 turbines to Hub Height The proposed development is illustrated in a wireframe visualisation, in Figure 5.8.1c at a distance of 1.61 km from the settlement at Sellafirth. <i>Size or Scale</i> All 18 turbines will be visible in views looking northwest from this location, seen as large-scale new elements within the expansive open moorland to the north west. All turbines will have a consistent blade tip height of 180m, which assists in reducing the variance between the scale of the turbines and the scale of the landform. <i>Geographical Extent</i> The five turbines that are removed will reduce the apparent density of the wind farm as well as incidence of overlapping of rotors. The extent of the array remains at c.60°. The magnitude of change will remain Substantial. The RVAA threshold will not be reached. | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |
| Property Cluster 2: Heath Cottage, Innhouse, Sellafirth Road (A968) | Major effect on residents. Significant The residents will not experience impacts on the visual component of | 2020 Layout: 16 turbines to Hub Height, 7 turbines to parts of blades only. 2021 Layout: 12 turbines to Hub Height, 6 turbines to parts of blades only The proposed development is illustrated in a wireframe visualisation, | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| RVAA Property Cluster | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) and RVAA Conclusion | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) and Analysis of RVAA Threshold | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) and RVAA Conclusion |
|--|--|---|--|
| | residential amenity or living conditions. The RVAA threshold is not reached. (see table end note) | <p>in Figure 5.8.2c at a distance of 1.86 km from the settlement at Sellafirth.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>Parts of all 18 turbines will be visible in views looking northwest from this location, seen as large-scale new elements within the expansive open moorland to the north west. All turbines will have a consistent blade tip height of 180m, which assists in reducing the variance between the scale of the turbines and the scale of the landform.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The five turbines that are removed will reduce the apparent density of the wind farm in the most open part of the view and reduce the incidence of overlapping rotors. Whilst the visible extent of the array remains at c.55°, the eastern sector of the array will be set back behind the foreground houses. The directly visible western portion of the wind farm will extend to c.30°.</p> <p>Whilst the effect of the Proposed Development will be reduced, the magnitude of change will remain Substantial.</p> <p>The RVAA threshold will not be reached.</p> | |
| Property Cluster 3: Easterhouse and Gloup Haa, South Gloup | <p>Major/ Moderate effect on residents. Significant</p> <p>The residents will not experience impacts on the visual component of residential</p> | <p>2020 Layout: 7 turbines to Hub Height, 6 to parts of blades only.</p> <p>2021 Layout: 5 turbines to Hub Height, 4 turbines to parts of blades only</p> <p>The proposed development is illustrated in a wireframe visualisation, in Figure 5.8.3c at a distance of 1.85 km from the settlement at South Gloup.</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| RVAA Property Cluster | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) and RVAA Conclusion | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) and Analysis of RVAA Threshold | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) and RVAA Conclusion |
|--|--|--|--|
| | amenity or living conditions. The RVAA threshold is not reached. (see table end note) | <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The prominent turbines at the north western extent of the array will be removed, reducing the horizontal extent of the wind farm. The turbines will be seen within the interior of Yell, away from the coastal edge, at a minimum distance of approximately 1.85 km. There will be a reduction in the apparent scale of development seen due to topographic screening however, a medium scale influence will remain on the framed view to the south along Gloup Voe.</p> <p><i>Geographic Extent</i></p> <p>The extent of the visible array will be c.27° (reduced by 18°) angle of view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change will remain Moderate, leading to a Major/Moderate effect which remains significant, albeit reduced in impact.</p> <p>The RVAA threshold will not be reached.</p> | |
| Property Cluster 4: New House and The Kirks, Gloup | <p>Major/ Moderate effect on residents. Significant</p> <p>The residents will not experience impacts on the visual component of residential amenity or living conditions. The RVAA threshold is not reached. (see table end note)</p> | <p>2020 Layout: 8 turbines to Hub Height, 6 to parts of blades only.</p> <p>2021 Layout: 6 turbines to Hub Height, 3 turbines to parts of blades only</p> <hr/> <p>The proposed development is illustrated in a wireframe visualisation, in Figure 5.8.4c at a distance of 2.14km from the settlement at Gloup.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>Parts of 9 turbines will be visible in views looking south from this location, representing a discernible reduction from the 2020 SEI layout. The turbines will be seen as large-scale new elements set back above Gloup Voe to</p> | No change to findings of significance presented in the 2020 SEI. |

| RVAA Property Cluster | Significance of Effect (2020 SEI Layout) and RVAA Conclusion | Theoretical visibility and Summary of changes (<i>Size or Scale and Geographical Extent</i>) and Analysis of RVAA Threshold | Significance of Effect (SEI 2 Layout) and RVAA Conclusion |
|--|---|---|---|
| | | <p>the south. The removal of three of the five north western turbines will increase the association of the remaining turbines with the moorland interior rather than coastal edge.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The visible extent of the array is reduced to c.25° (reduced by 9°).</p> <p>The magnitude of change remains Moderate.</p> <p>The RVAA threshold will not be reached.</p> | |
| Property Cluster 5: Torvaugh and Niaroo East Gloup | <p>Moderate effect on residents. Not Significant.</p> <p>The residents will not experience impacts on the visual component of residential amenity or living conditions. The RVAA threshold is not reached. (see table end note)</p> | <p>2020 Layout: 2 turbines to parts of blades only.</p> <p>2021 Layout: No turbines visible</p> <p>The proposed development is illustrated in a wireframe visualisation, in Figure 5.8.5c from the settlement at East Gloup.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The removal of five turbines from the north western extremity of the Proposed Development removes visibility from properties in this group altogether.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The magnitude of change will be reduced to None.</p> <p>The RVAA threshold will not be reached.</p> | <p>No effect on residents. Not Significant.</p> <p>The residents will not experience impacts on the visual component of residential amenity or living conditions. The RVAA threshold is not reached. (see table end note)</p> |
| <p>Table End Note: A concluding judgement is made on whether the predicted effects on visual amenity and views at the property, even if significant in EIA terms, are such that it has reached the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold, therefore potentially becoming a matter of Residential Amenity. This considers whether the effect of the Proposed Development becomes overwhelming such that the properties would become unattractive places in which to live. Examples described in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19 include ‘blocking the only available view from a property’, or ‘overwhelming views in all directions’; and ‘unpleasantly encroaching’ or being ‘inescapably dominant from the property’.</p> | | | |

Summary of effects from the RVAA

- 5.4.61 The RVAA considers residential properties within a 2 km radius study area. The purpose of the revised assessment, taking account of the detailed assessment set out in Appendix 5.6 of the 2019 EIA Report, was to review the updated nature of these effects, and examine whether the RVAA Threshold had been reached.
- 5.4.62 When considering the changes in visual amenity from these properties ‘in the round’ it is noted that the principally occupied rooms are orientated away from the Proposed Development. In this regard the experience of the turbines would not be overwhelming such that the properties would become unattractive places in which to live. Whilst some of the properties will experience significant visual effects, the RVAA threshold will not be reached. The revised assessment concludes that at none of the properties assessed will residents experience impacts on the visual component of residential amenity or living conditions.
- 5.4.63 It is concluded that the potential relationship between residential properties in proximity to the Proposed Development whilst in some instances giving rise to significant visual effects, will not give rise to adverse effects on Residential Visual Amenity.

5.5 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

- 5.5.1 The baseline of cumulative wind farm sites remains unchanged from that reported in the 2019 EIA Report with the exception that the Viking Variation proposal (c.37.5 km to the south) has been approved and the Hillhead (c.22.5 km to the south west) and Brae (c.33.5 km to the south west) small single turbines have been approved on Mainland. The key cumulative wind farms of relevance to the assessment are either built (Garth Wind Farm, c.2 km to the east of the nearest turbine) or consented (Beaw Field, c.17 km to the south of the nearest turbine), which have been considered as part of the baseline.
- 5.5.2 The existing and proposed wind farms are shown on Figure 5.4.2.
- 5.5.3 The cumulative assessment was incorporated into the 2019 EIA Report, as amended by the 2020 SEI, with separate judgements as to the cumulative effects being presented within each of the tables throughout, for each landscape and visual receptor. The reason for this was that the key cumulative wind farms of relevance to the assessment are either built (Garth Wind Farm, c.2 km to the east of the nearest turbine) or consented (Beaw Field, c.17 km to the south of the nearest turbine), and are, therefore, considered as part of the baseline for the assessment. These relationships, and the resulting limited cumulative effects, remain as reported and as summarised below.
- 5.5.4 The consenting of the Viking Wind Farm tip height extension, located over 35 km to the south, will not cause any change to the level of effects reported in paragraph 5.9.3 of the 2019 EIA Report. The sequential effects on a journey through Shetland will remain as stated. The addition of the small-scale developments at Hillhead and Brae on the mainland will be seen to be of a domestic scale, associated with existing settlement clusters. The wind farms forming part of the built and consented baseline would not be seen as associated developments. Except where noted in the 2019 EIA Report, they would not interact with one another to a significant degree, with no more than one notably affecting the experience of landscape or views from any one place or stretch of road or ferry journey. The existing and proposed wind farms would lie too far apart to enable a comparison to be made between differing turbine heights or types.
- 5.5.5 The influence of Garth Wind Farm and Beaw Field Wind Farm and cumulative effects with the Proposed Development will remain as stated in paragraphs 5.9.4 and 5.9.5 respectively, of the 2019 EIA Report.
- 5.5.6 The conclusions of the cumulative assessment remain as stated in paragraph 5.9.6 of the 2019 EIA Report, with limited cumulative effects arising from the interaction of the Proposed Development with Garth Wind Farm in local combined views. There will also be some locations where the Proposed Development will be seen in combined or successive distant views with Beaw Field Wind Farm.

- 5.5.7 In the SIC NHO’s consultation response to the 2020 SEI, the matter of the overall cumulative effects across the Shetland Islands is raised, in terms of the characterisation of the landscape as a ‘wind farm landscape’. It is likely that a wind farm landscape will be perceived within close proximity to the Proposed Development site, where wind turbines will have a defining influence on the landscape character but, due to the considerable separation with other operational and consented wind farms, the extent of this characterisation will be geographically limited. Beyond the confines of the site area the Proposed Development will contribute to the perception of a ‘landscape with wind turbines’ as someone travels around the islands where wind turbines are perceived as one of a number of landscape and built characteristics. The reduction in turbine numbers to 18 will result in a compact layout, as shown in Figure 1.1, and this will help to reinforce the identity of the Proposed Development as an isolated development in the landscape.

5.6 Assessment of Effects at Decommissioning and Post-Operational Stages

- 5.6.1 The decommissioning of the Proposed Development and the extent of restoration works will be agreed with SIC in consultation with appropriate statutory bodies.
- 5.6.2 At the end of the 30-year operational lifetime of the Proposed Development, the turbines and other above ground infrastructure will be removed, and the landscape and application site would be returned to their present condition. Decommissioning is expected to be shorter than the construction phase, with the dismantling of all above-ground structures and the reinstatement of disturbed ground taking around 12 months; however, below-ground structures are likely to be left in place to avoid further disturbance (with the exception of the top metre of the foundation base of each turbine). There will therefore be a temporary effect from the activities on the site to remove structures, but this will be of relatively short duration. Some evidence of the past presence of the Proposed Development will remain visible in short-range views during the post-decommissioning restoration period. Over the short-to-medium term the site will be returned to rough grazing uses, with the only structures remaining onsite being underground ones.
- 5.6.3 Accordingly, the decommissioning and post-operational phases are considered to have a short-term effect on the landscape and visual amenity of the locality, similar but less substantial than those effects described for the construction phase. This will be Not Significant.

5.7 Comparison of Effects

- 5.7.1 The following text summarises the changes in the overall effects between the 2020 Layout and the 2021 Layout.

Landscape Fabric

- 5.7.2 The direct effects on the host LCA: B1, Yell Peatlands LCA, within which the Proposed Development is located, remain **Significant**. However, the direct effects on the landscape resource and the overall extent of the area directly affected by the Proposed Development will be reduced with the removal of five turbines and associated tracks. The footprint of the Proposed Development will be removed from the eastern sides of the Hill of Markamouth and the Hill of Vigon in the northwest of the site.
- 5.7.3 It is also relevant to note in the context of the direct effects, and indirect landscape and visual effects, that the site area is within a location where commercial wind energy is anticipated as being accommodated in the SIC Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands (LUC-2009).
- 5.7.4 Area C ‘Mid and North Yell’ is assessed in the Capacity Study (page 115) as having a Moderate sensitivity overall, with capacity identified “to accommodate several small wind farms or one medium-large wind farm.” Furthermore, the Study advises that “Wind farm development could be accommodated within parts of this landscape, however this should avoid effects on areas of sensitive vegetation. Wind farm developments should be sited away from the more sensitive coastal edge and areas designated for their natural heritage value, focusing on the A968 corridor.”

- 5.7.5 Advice given on suitable typologies indicates that the landscape could accommodate “a development of approximately 13-25 turbines, and/or with an installed capacity of 20-50MW.” The 2021 Layout is considered to meet the guidance contained in the Capacity Study, with the exception of installed capacity, which has improved with turbine technology advancement since the Capacity Study was written in 2009.

Landscape and Coastal Character

- 5.7.6 Landscape Character Areas and Coastal Character Areas will experience reductions in visibility of the Proposed Development, with local reductions to the magnitude of change. However, the beneficial effects associated with the reduction in turbine numbers and turbine height will be most evident within CCA21, Whalefirth, which becomes **Not Significant**. In other LCAs and CCAs the overall assessment of effects remains the same as that reported in the 2020 SEI, albeit in several areas the magnitude of change will reduce. These changes will be most evident in the following LCAs/CCAs: LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands; LCA G1 Coastal Edge; CCA 18, Gloup Breckon; CCA 19, Hermaness; CCA 27, Yell Sound. The extent of the areas significantly affected by the Proposed Development will be notably reduced in CCA 18 at Breckon and in CCA 21 along the north west coast of Yell where the removal of turbines at the north western edge of the array beneficially reduces the influence of turbines on these coastal character areas.

National Scenic Areas

- 5.7.7 The Fethaland sub area in North Roe and the Hermaness sub area on north Unst, are two sub-units of the Shetland NSA where there will be the potential for indirect effects. Yell lies between the two sub-units, with the Proposed Development set into the moorland interior of the north sector of the island.
- 5.7.8 The changes to the Proposed Development, through the removal of turbines within the north western extent of the array and the reduction in height from 200m to 180m of ten turbines, helps to consolidate the wind farm within a single landscape character type. The changes have removed turbines from the north western headland of Yell and reduced the visual influence of the wind farm on coastal views, particularly within the sound of Yell. The expansive scale of the moorland is large and this enables it to accommodate the size of turbine proposed without conflicts of scale being perceived, especially in views from the NSA sub-units at Hermaness and Fethaland. Setting the Proposed Development further back from the smaller scale coastal edge improves this relationship with the underlying landform.
- 5.7.9 The increased separation between the coastline and wind farm also serves to reduce its perceived association with the coastal landscapes, which are important to the appreciation of the special landscape qualities. In turn, the additional separation improves the scale of the moorland setting on either side of the wind farm which strengthens its association with the core of the Yell uplands.
- 5.7.10 In views out from the two NSA sub-units (reflected in Viewpoints 16 and 18), the Proposed Development will occupy a small part of the 360° panorama available. The photomontage visualisations present only 53.5° of the expansive views available, in which the wind farm will occupy a small proportion.
- 5.7.11 The detailed assessment of effects on the Shetland NSA as set out in Appendix 5.1 concludes that the effects on the Special Landscape Qualities of the sub-units of the Shetland NSA will be **Not Significant** and will not be at risk or compromised by the Proposed Development. The overall integrity and objectives of the Shetland NSA will be maintained.

Local Landscape Areas

- 5.7.12 For the majority of the Shetland Local Landscape Areas (LLA) there will be no change to the key characteristics, and effects will remain **Not Significant**.
- 5.7.13 There are, however, improvements to the previously identified 2020 SEI, Not Significant, effects on several local landscape areas, including Gloup Voe/Bluemull Sound LLA and West Sandwick to Gloup

Holm, Yell LLA, in particular. The removal of turbines and associated infrastructure from the western side of the Proposed Development increases the separation distance from the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm, Yell LLA (Area 8 on Figure 5.2.11) and reduces actual visibility from within the closest parts of LLA, along the western coastal edge of north Yell, as confirmed in the comparative ZTV in Figure 5.2.9.

- 5.7.14 The influence on coastal views and landscape character will also be reduced at Breckon Sands. The view will be improved from the areas around Westing at the south western extent of Unst by the removal of turbines from the coastal headland on north Yell and the centring of the wind farm within the interior of Yell. Across the majority of the LLA, the key characteristics and integrity will not be altered. There will be a local reduction in the scenic qualities experienced from within Gloup Voe. Where visible the wind farm will be set back from the coastal headland and seen within the interior of Yell.

Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes

- 5.7.15 For both Belmont House, IGDL and Brough Lodge, IGDL there will be a very slight reduction in the density and overall height of development however, the turbines will continue to be seen as large-scale elements in views. There will also be a reduction in the visible extent of the wind farm in views west and north west respectively from the IGDLs. Effects will remain Major/Moderate and **Significant**.

Wild Land

- 5.7.16 The reduction in the Proposed Development will slightly reduce the magnitude of change on the Ronas Hill and North Roe Wild Land Area (WLA), as evident from the assessment of visual effects at Viewpoint 20 which becomes **Not Significant**. The effect on the wildness qualities of the WLA will be Slight and **Not Significant**.

Settlement

- 5.7.17 Visual effects on settlements will be reduced, including at the East Gloup property cluster where it will be removed altogether, but the overall magnitude of change will remain unchanged from the assessment grades recorded in the 2020 SEI. Visual effects will remain **Significant** for the Westing cluster; Belmont; The Kirks; North-Eastern, Eastern and Southern clusters assessed, due to the proximity and relative visibility of the Proposed Development, although the reduction in tip height of ten turbines will reduce the apparent vertical scale. For other settlement the effects will remain **Not Significant**.

Route Corridors

- 5.7.18 The turbines removed in the north west of the wind farm are distant from the transport routes and, therefore, the extent of visibility to the reduced wind farm remains broadly the same. The reduction in height of ten turbines to 180m introduces incremental change, assisting integrating the array with the prevailing landform, however, the overall magnitude of change in views is unchanged. The effects on routes and receptors including the limited cumulative effects, remain unchanged from the assessment grades recorded in the 2020 SEI. Whilst there will be sections of routes where visibility will be reduced, it is unlikely that the overall effect on the route corridors will change.

Viewpoints

- 5.7.19 In the case of four representative viewpoints, 8, 14, 16 and 17, the magnitude of change has reduced to Moderate, resulting in Major to Moderate Significant visual effect, on a precautionary basis. In relation to these particular viewpoints, the residual effect of the 2021 Layout is described as being 'borderline' significant. In OPEN's professional opinion, and exercising a precautionary approach, the visual effect is Significant, but it is of a magnitude that is at the threshold of significance, hence the 'borderline' finding. In some LVIA Methodologies, effects of Slight magnitude of change on a High sensitivity receptor can be classified as Significant, as acknowledged in EIA Report at paragraph

- 5.4.8. In OPEN's opinion, while the effects at these locations remain Significant, they are close to the 'Slight' magnitude of change finding.
- 5.7.20 It is important to note in terms of the mitigation that has been achieved through the removal of five turbines (and lowering of tip heights to 180m) that the magnitude of change has reduced from the 2020 Layout, even if it does not justify a change to the finding of Significance.
- 5.7.21 In the case of viewpoints 13 and 19 (**Not Significant**), the magnitude of effect reduces to negligible and slight respectively with the turbine removal, but the significance of effect is not altered. In the case of viewpoint 11, the visual effect is removed altogether.
- 5.7.22 At viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, a previously assessed significant visual effect is assessed to be reduced to **Not Significant**. This viewpoint is located within the North Roe Wild Land Area and demonstrates a reduction in impact at the core of the area.
- 5.7.23 It is evident from the assessment that the removal of five turbines (and reduction in height of ten) brings tangible benefit in terms of the reduction in magnitude of change, which is considered beneficial in visual terms.

Night-Time Lighting Assessment

- 5.7.24 It should be noted that the assessment is based on the mitigation set out in the Lighting Report prepared by WPAC, which has been approved by the CAA. The effects on the night-time lighting viewpoints will be reduced with the removal of five turbines and reduction in the number of remaining turbines that carry lights. The visual effects will reduce at one of the locations, LVIA Viewpoint 3 to **Not Significant** and the magnitude of effect will reduce at the remaining two locations, which remain **Significant**. The reduced lighting scheme will secure positive mitigation of visual effects at night-time.

Residential Visual Amenity

- 5.7.25 Effects on Property Clusters 1, 2, 3 and 4 will reduce, however the overall magnitude of change will remain as stated in the 2020 SEI. Effects on Property 5 will be eliminated altogether.
- 5.7.26 Whilst some of the properties will experience **Significant** visual effects, the RVAA threshold will not be reached at any property. The reduction in tip height of ten turbines to 180m will further reduce the apparent vertical scale seen by people living in Property Clusters 1-4. The revised assessment concludes that, at none of the properties assessed will residents experience impacts on the visual component of residential amenity or living conditions.

Cumulative Effects

- 5.7.27 The conclusions of the cumulative assessment remain as stated in paragraph 5.9.6 of the EIA LVIA Report, with limited cumulative effects arising.

5.8 Summary

- 5.8.1 An updated Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken for the amended Proposed Development (2021 Layout). It sets out the revised effects on the Shetland landscape, and also includes effects on coastal character.
- 5.8.2 The revised assessment has considered the effects upon designated landscapes including the Shetland National Scenic Area, the proposed Local Landscape Areas and Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
- 5.8.3 From a visual perspective, the revised assessment considers effects upon residents at settlements, users of roads, ferries and recreational routes, which include locals and tourists. A revised residential visual amenity assessment is also included.

- 5.8.4 The assessment of cumulative effects has also been reviewed. Some cumulative interactions will occur, with Garth Wind Farm and the Proposed Development appearing as separate, contrasting wind farms.
- 5.8.5 Following agreement with the CAA of a reduced visible aviation lighting scheme, as set out in the WPAC Report in Appendix 13.1 to Chapter 13, a revised Night Time Lighting Assessment has also been prepared.
- 5.8.6 Whilst it is always necessary to take account and to balance the wide range of technical and environmental requirements, it is also a requirement to seek to optimise the layout design and choice of turbine from a landscape and visual perspective, in order to achieve mitigation which is embedded into the project design. Following on from feedback from consultees, including NS and SIC, the wind farm layout was reviewed and amended to take account of concerns. In particular, the removal of five turbines from the western edge of the Proposed Development (and reduction in height of ten turbines to 180m) has been proposed to address concerns related to the perceived effects on the special landscape qualities of two sub-units of the Shetland NSA. The coastal edge of Yell is visible from the Hermaness (Unst) and Fethaland (North Roe) sub-units of the NSA and is experienced in the context of the special landscape qualities of both areas. By drawing the Proposed Development further back from the coastline of Yell, the perceived association of the wind farm with the coastline, and therefore the experience of the special landscape qualities, is reduced.
- 5.8.7 The reduction to the north west has also placed the wind farm more definitively within a single landscape type, that being the moorland interior of northern Yell, where capacity for a commercial scale of wind farm development is supported, in principle, within the guidance presented in SIC's Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development in the Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009). The reduction in the turbine footprint, from 23 in the 2020 Layout to 18 in the 2021 Layout, also reduces the horizontal extent of the wind farm as seen in many views from the north, south and west. As such, the wind farm has a more coherent appearance in wider views and it relates better to the moorland setting because it has more equal areas of undeveloped moorland to either side. Turbines have been removed from views between the headlands of the islands and away from the fore of views to noticeable hills and topography.
- 5.8.8 The removal of five turbines and the reduction in height of turbines to a consistent level of 180m to blade tip has also reduced the visible extent of the wind farm in some views, in particular from nearby settlement, and the profile of the wind farm more closely relates to the flow of the underlying landscape, with less occurrences of prominent turbines. The reduction in the number of turbines has also reduced the occurrences of overlapping turbines in views.
- 5.8.9 Significant landscape and visual effects are to be expected for any commercial scale wind farm, and this is no exception. A number of significant effects are predicted including significant landscape effects on the landscape character of the site and its surroundings, visual effects on residents at settlements and tourists including recreational walkers. The removal of five turbines and associated infrastructure marks a 25% reduction in the number of turbines. These changes to the layout have reduced the magnitude of change for the majority of receptors, with a removal of significant effects in a small number of instances. In other locations, the magnitude of change leading to a Significant effect has reduced to the lowest level that is capable of triggering a significant effect. In particular the magnitude of change will be reduced for some landscape and visual receptors to the north, west and south of the wind farm.
- 5.8.10 The large-scale, open and expansive landscape of Yell is considered to have attributes which are suited to wind farm development, as recognised in the Capacity Study. The Proposed Development is an appropriate scale of development, focussed away from the scattered settlement and coastal crofting land within the expansive landscape of the interior which has a simple landform and an absence of development. This is a remote landscape with a large scale and simple landform. Whilst the effects will be significant locally to the site, and for some visual receptors in middle range views to the site, it is considered that these can be accommodated in this open windswept upland moorland landscape.

5.8.11 In conclusion, the updated assessment has found that the Proposed Development can be satisfactorily accommodated within the landscape of Mid and North Yell, as identified within the Council's Capacity Study from 2009.

Table 5.8 - Summary of Residual Landscape and Visual Effects

| <i>Summary of Residual Effects</i> | |
|--|--|
| Receptor | Nature of Effect |
| Operational Landscape Effects | |
| LCA A3 Ronas Hill | Moderate, Not Significant |
| LCA A4 Unst Uplands | Locally Major/Moderate from Valla Field, Significant Elsewhere no greater than Moderate, Not Significant |
| LCA B1 Yell Peatland | Major/Moderate within 3km, Significant Moderate within 3-5km, Not Significant Elsewhere no greater than Moderate/Minor, Not Significant |
| LCA C2 Undulating Moorland with Lochs North Roe | Moderate/Minor Not Significant |
| LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands | Major/Moderate , Significant from north Yell Elsewhere Moderate or Slight, Not Significant |
| LCA E4 Unst Coastal Crofting | Moderate, Not Significant |
| LCA F5 Scattered Settlement / Crofting and Grazing Lands | Locally Major/ Moderate Significant Elsewhere Slight, Not Significant |
| LCA G1 Coastal Edge | Moderate, Not Significant |
| CCA 12, Bluemull Sound | Moderate from the eastern edge of Bluemull Sound, Not Significant Elsewhere no greater than Moderate Minor, Not Significant |
| CCA 14, Colgrave Sound | Moderate from Basta Voe, Not Significant Moderate/Minor elsewhere, Not Significant |
| CCA 18, Gloop Breckon | Locally from Gloop Voe Major/Moderate , Significant Moderate/Minor elsewhere Not Significant |
| CCA 19, Hermaness | Major/Moderate locally south of Wood Wick, Significant |

| Summary of Residual Effects | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Receptor | Nature of Effect |
| | Elsewhere Minor, Not Significant |
| CCA 21, Whalefirth | Locally Moderate from the west coast of Whale Firth and the Nev of Stuis, Not Significant Elsewhere Not Significant |
| CCA 24, North Roe Coast | Locally Moderate from the Point of Fethaland and North West Roe, Not Significant Elsewhere no greater than Minor, Not Significant |
| CCA 27, Yell Sound | Moderate from the north western extent of the CCA, Not Significant Minor or Negligible Elsewhere, Not Significant |
| Hermaness NSA | The sub unit of the NSA includes parts of LCA A4 Unst Uplands, LCA G1 Coastal Edge LCA and CCA 19 Hermaness which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs and CCAs finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the NSA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects. A Moderate (Not Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill. The Special Landscape Qualities of the Hermaness sub area of the Shetland NSA will not be at risk or damaged by the Proposed Development and the integrity of the Shetland NSA will be maintained. |
| Fethaland NSA | The NSA includes parts of LCA C2 North Roe Undulating Moorland with Lochs, LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, LCA G1 Coastal Edge LCA, CCA 24 North Roe Coast, and CCA 27 Yell Sound, which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs and CCAs finds no significant effects on these areas, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects. A Major/Moderate (Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, and Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe. The occurrence of a significant visual effect, which evaluates the specific effect at a given viewpoint, does not necessarily amount to a significant effect on a landscape character receptor, or designation, where an appreciation of landscape characteristics and/ or special qualities across a broader area is assessed. |

| Summary of Residual Effects | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Receptor | Nature of Effect |
| | The Special Landscape Qualities of the Fethaland sub area of the Shetland NSA will not be at risk or damaged by the Proposed Development and the integrity of the Shetland NSA will be maintained. |
| Ronas Hill, LLA | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA A3 Ronas Hill, and LCA C2 North Roe, which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA. A Moderate (Not Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, North Roe.</p> <p>The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.</p> |
| Wick of Tresta, Fetlar, LLA | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA B2 Rounded Moorland Hills, and LCA F4 Fetlar Crofting and Grassland. The northern flank of the Lamb Hoga ridgeline within the Rounded Moorland Hills LCA falls partially within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCA B2 finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects.</p> <p>The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.</p> |
| Colvadale and Muness, Unst, LLA | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland, and LCA F4 Unst Crofting and Grassland. The eastern elevated edge of the LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland falls partially within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCA B3 finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects.</p> <p>The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.</p> |
| Haroldswick and Skaw, LLA | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA A4, Unst Uplands, LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland, LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting, LCA F4 Unst Crofting and Grassland and LCA G1, Coastal Edge. The western flanks of the hills in LCA A4 and LCA B3 fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant total or additional cumulative effects.</p> <p>The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.</p> |

| Summary of Residual Effects | |
|---|---|
| Receptor | Nature of Effect |
| Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound, LLA | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting, LCA F4, Fetlar Crofting and Grassland and LCA F5, Scattered Settlement/ Crofting and Grazing Lands. The assessment of effects on LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing lands identified locally significant effects in north Yell. Moderate not significant additional and total cumulative effects were predicted on the LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting component of the LLA.</p> <p>Across the majority of the LLA, the key characteristics and integrity will not be altered. There will be a local reduction in the scenic qualities experienced from within Gloup Voe.</p> |
| West Sandwick to Gloup Holm, Yell, LLA | <p>The LLA includes parts of LCA B1 Yell Peatland, LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, and LCA G1, Coastal Edge. The assessment of effects on LCA B1, Yell Peatland and LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, identified locally significant effects, within 3 km of the Proposed Development on the LLA along the coastal edge. Moderate not significant additional and total cumulative effects were predicted on the LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting component of the LLA.</p> <p>The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be very locally altered by the Proposed Development at North Neaps and the Stuis of Graveland, with a reduction in the scenic qualities of the LLA</p> |
| Belmont House, GDL | Major/Moderate , Significant |
| Brough Lodge, GDL | Major/Moderate , Significant |
| Ronas Hill and North Roe Wild Land Area | <p>Slight and Not Significant</p> <p>There will be a Slight influence on the identified attributes of the “<i>the wider composition of islands, sea, voes, bays and sounds (sense of naturalness, awe inspiring)</i>”, essentially affecting part of the distant view to the north east.</p> |
| Operational Visual Effects - Settlements | |
| Southern Cluster: Sellafirth; Cunnister. | Major , Significant |
| Eastern Cluster: Stronganess; Cullivoe; Greenbank. | Cullivoe Major/Moderate , Significant Moderate/Minor, Not Significant Stronganess and Greenbank |

| Summary of Residual Effects | |
|---|---|
| Receptor | Nature of Effect |
| | |
| North Eastern Cluster: Haa of Houlland; Midbrake; North and South Brough; Breckon. | Breckon Moderate/Minor Not Significant Elsewhere Major/Moderate , Significant |
| Northern Cluster: Gloop; The Kirks | Major/Moderate , Significant East Gloop: No visibility |
| Belmont | Major/Moderate , Significant |
| Westing Cluster: Burragarth; Underhoull; Houllnan; Westing; Newgord. | Major/Moderate , Significant |
| Mid Yell | Moderate, Not Significant |
| Burra Voe | Moderate, Not Significant |
| Operational Visual Effects – Viewpoints | |
| 1. Tittyans Hill, Yell | Walkers – Major , Significant Crofters – Major/Moderate , Significant |
| 2. Fishermen's Memorial, Gloop | Residents / Walkers / Visitors – Major/Moderate , Significant |
| 3. Haa of Houlland | Residents, Major/ Moderate , Significant |
| 4. Cullivoe | Residents / Visitors, Major/ Moderate , Significant |
| 5. Sands of Breckon | Walkers / Visitors, Moderate, Not Significant |
| 6. A968 / NCR1 Colvister | Road Users - Major / Moderate , Significant Cyclists - Major , Significant |
| 7. Cunnister, Basta Voe | Residents, Major , Significant |
| 8. Nev of Stuis, Yell | Walkers, Major/Moderate , Significant |
| 9. Belmont House, Unst | Visitors, Major/ Moderate , Significant |
| 10. Westing, Unst | Residents, Major/ Moderate , Significant |
| 11. Grimster, Whale Firth, Yell | No Visibility |

| Summary of Residual Effects | |
|--|---|
| Receptor | Nature of Effect |
| 12. Brough Lodge, Fetlar | Visitors, Major / Moderate , Significant |
| 13. A968 / NCR1, middle Yell | Road Users –Minor, Not Significant Cyclists – Moderate/Minor, Not Significant |
| 14. Wood Wick, Unst | Walkers, Major / Moderate , Significant |
| 15. B9081, Hill of Reafirth | Road Users, Moderate, Not Significant |
| 16. Point of Fethaland, North Roe | Walkers, Major / Moderate , Significant |
| 17. Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe | Walkers, Major / Moderate , Significant |
| 18. Hermaness Hill | Walkers, Moderate, Not Significant |
| 19. Settlement at Burra Voe, A970, North Roe | Residents - Moderate, Not Significant Road Users – Moderate/Minor, Not Significant |
| 20. Ronas Hill | Walkers - Moderate, Not Significant |
| 21. A968 / NCR 1 Hill of Swinster | Road Users – Minor, Not Significant Cyclists – Moderate/ Minor, Not Significant |

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