



Torfichen Wind Farm

Technical Appendix 6.3

Preliminary Assessment of LCTs & Designations

Author	Pegasus Group
Date	6 September 2023
Ref	5585

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1 Preliminary Assessment of LCTs and Designations

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Technical Appendix has been prepared to accompany Chapter 6: LVIA of the proposed Torfichen Wind Farm (hereafter the Proposed Development) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and provides a preliminary assessment of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the detailed 20 km LVIA Study Area.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is located partly within LCT 266 Plateau Moorland - Lothians and LCT 269 Upland Fringes - Lothians as defined in the NatureScot National Landscape Character Types.
- 1.1.3 Other LCTs within 35 km of the Proposed Development are illustrated in **Figure 6.12**, and those located within the 20 km detailed study area are illustrated at **Figure 6.13** and overlaid with the blade tip ZTV at **Figure 6.14**.

1.2 Preliminary Assessment of LCTs

- 1.2.1 An initial filtering exercise has been undertaken to determine which LCTs would have the potential for significant effects to arise and would therefore require detailed consideration in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The intention has been to ensure that the level of attention given to each character type is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The discussion below summarises the process followed in deciding which character types have the potential to experience significant effects and hence to scope out various character types from further consideration.
- 1.2.2 With reference to **Figure 6.13**, illustrating the character types within 35 km there are certain character types from which there would be no or very limited visibility of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, with increased distance from the Proposed Development the potential for indirect and significant effects to occur is reduced. On that basis, all LCTs which are located between 20 km and 35 km have been scoped out of any

further assessment, as it is considered that there would be no potential for significant effects to arise at this distance.

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

Table 6.3.1: Preliminary Assessment of LCTs

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
LCT 266 Plateau Moorland - Lothians	Proposed Development is partly located in this LCT	Potential for direct significant effects on the part of the LCT where the Proposed Development would be located and indirect significant effects on the remaining parts of the LCT.	Yes
LCT 269 Upland Fringes - Lothians	Proposed Development is partly located in this LCT	Potential for direct significant effects on the part of the LCT where the Proposed Development would be located and indirect significant effects on the remaining parts of the LCT.	Yes
LCT 90 Dissected Plateau Moorland	Approximately 0.3 km to the south-east	Given the Site lies adjacent to the north boundary of this LCT and the very close proximity, potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
LCT 91 Plateau Grassland - Borders	Approximately 1.1 km to the north-west	Given the Site lies very close to the north-western boundary of this LCT, potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
LCT 270 Lowland River Valleys - Lothians	Approximately 2.8 km to the north	Extensive theoretical visibility in relative proximity, with the Moorfoot Hills providing the backdrop to southerly views. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
LCT 114 Pastoral Upland Valley	Approximately 3.4 km to the south-east	Very limited theoretical visibility and as such very limited effects which would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 272 Lowland Hills and Ridges - Lothians	Approximately 3.5 km to the north	Extensive theoretical visibility within approximately 10 km. Potential for indirect significant	Yes

		effects.	
LCT 104 Upland Fringe Rough Grassland	Approximately 4.5 km to the west	Extensive theoretical visibility in relative proximity. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
LCT 270 Lowland River Valleys - Lothians	Approximately 4.5 km to the north-east	Limited and very intermittent theoretical visibility. Potential for very limited effects which would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 272 Lowland Hills and Ridges - Lothians	Approximately 5.1 km to the north-west	Extensive theoretical visibility in relative proximity. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
LCT 267 Plateau Grassland - Lothians	Approximately 5.5 km to the east	Extensive theoretical visibility in relative proximity. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
LCT 275 Lowland Farmed Plain - Lothians	Approximately 6.9 km to the north-east	Patchy theoretical visibility. Given the distance from the Proposed Development there is potential for indirect effects on the character of available views within the southern part of the LCT but effects would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 99 Rolling Farmland - Borders	Approximately 6.9 km to the west	Theoretical visibility from the eastern edge of the LCT. Potential for indirect effects but due to the distance and the limited theoretical visibility from the majority of the LCT, effects would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 114 Pastoral Upland Valley	Approximately 7.1 km to the south-west	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
LCT 92 Plateau Outliers	Approximately 9.1 km	Theoretical visibility from the northern part of the LCT. Potential for indirect effects but due to the distance and the limited theoretical visibility from the majority of the LCT, effects would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 270 Lowland River Valleys - Lothians	Approximately 10.7 km to the north-east	Very patchy theoretical visibility. Any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 115 Upland Valley with Mixed Farmland	Approximately 11.9 km to the east	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No

LCT 268 Upland Hills - Lothians	Approximately 12.4 km to the north-west	Theoretical visibility from the eastern edges of the LCT. At such distance effects would be limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 279 Settled Coastal Farmland	Approximately 13.5 km to the north	Limited theoretical visibility from the western part of the LCT. Due to the distance any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 90 Dissected Plateau Moorland	Approximately 13.9 km to the east	Very patchy theoretical visibility. Due to the distance any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 266 Plateau Moorland - Lothians	Approximately 15.9 km to the east	Very limited theoretical visibility. Due to the distance any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
LCT 113 Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	Approximately 16.1 km to the south-west	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for effects.	No
LCT 90 Dissected Plateau Moorland	Approximately 16.5 km to the west	Very patchy theoretical visibility. Due to the distance any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No

1.3 Preliminary Assessment of Designated Sites within 20 km

Table 6.3.2: Preliminary Assessment of Designated Sites

Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
National Scenic Areas			
Upper Tweeddale NSA	Approximately 14.8 km to the south-west	No theoretical visibility	No
Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA	Approximately 26.6 km to the south-east	No theoretical visibility	No

Special Landscape Areas - Midlothian

Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp SLA	Proposed Development is located within the SLA	Potential for direct and indirect significant effects.	Yes
South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland SLA	Approximately 2.1 km to the north	Patchy theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines experienced in proximity. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
Tyne Valley SLA	Approximately 2.2 km to the north-east	Patchy theoretical visibility of up to all 16 turbines experienced in proximity. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes
Fala Moor SLA	Approximately 5.4 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility from a large proportion of the SLA which may lead to potential indirect significant effects.	Yes
The Pentland Hills SLA	Approximately 8.7 km to the north-west	Theoretical visibility from a large proportion of the SLA which may lead to potential indirect significant effects.	Yes
North Esk Valley SLA	Approximately 9.3 km to the north-west	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies SLA	Approximately 9.3 km to the north-east	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No

Special Landscape Areas - East Lothian

Humbie Headwaters (9) SLA	Approximately 10.4 km to the north-east	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall (18) SLA	Approximately 12.5 km to the north-east	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
Elphinstone Ridge (14) SLA	Approximately 13.1 km to the north	Limited theoretical visibility. Given the limited theoretical visibility and the distance from the Proposed Development limited effects may be experienced but would not be considered significant.	No

Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
The River Esk (10) SLA	Approximately 13.2 km to the north;	Theoretical visibility from a large proportion of the SLA. However, given the distance any effects would be limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Fisherrow Sands (31) SLA	Approximately 15.9 km to the north	Theoretical visibility from a large proportion of the SLA. Actual visibility would be greatly reduced due to intervening built form in Musselburgh. Any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Samuelston (22) SLA	Approximately 19.2 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility from a large proportion of the SLA. However, given the distance any effects would be limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Lammer Law/Hopes to Yester (3) SLA	Approximately 15.6 km to the north-east	Limited theoretical visibility from the western edges of the SLA. Given the limited theoretical visibility and the distance from the Proposed Development any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Winton Walks (23) SLA	Approximately 16.6 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility from across the SLA. Actual visibility would be reduced by intervening screening. However, given the distance any effects would be limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Lammermuir Moorland (1) SLA	Approximately 16.8 km to the east	No theoretical visibility within 20 km.	No

Special Landscape Areas - Scottish Borders

Tweed Valley SLA	Approximately 9.5 km to the south-west	No theoretical visibility	No
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Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Lammermuir Hills SLA	Approximately 11.8 km to the east	Very patchy intermittent theoretical visibility. Given the limited theoretical visibility and the distance from the Proposed Development any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Tweedsmuir Uplands	Approximately 15.7 km to the south	No theoretical visibility within 20 km.	No
Pentland Hills SLA	Approximately 16 km to the west	Within SBC theoretical visibility is very patchy and intermittent. Given the limited theoretical visibility and the distance from the Proposed Development any effects would be very limited and would not be considered significant.	No
Tweed Etrick and Yarrow Confluences SLA	Approximately 18.2 km to the south-east	No theoretical visibility within 20 km.	No