

Appendix 8.3:

Preliminary Assessment of LCTs and Designated Sites

This page is intentionally blank.

Appendix 8.3 Preliminary Assessment of LCTs and Designated Sites

1.1. Introduction2

1.2. Preliminary Assessment of LCTs2

1.3. Preliminary Assessment of Designated Sites12

References14

1. Preliminary Assessment of LCTs and Designated Sites

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This appendix provides a preliminary assessment of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the detailed 20 km LVIA Study Area.
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Varied Development is predominantly located within the Ken Landscape Character Area (LCA) of Assessment Unit (AU) 22: Southern Uplands with Forest, as set out within the Dumfries and Galloway Wind Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study Assessment of Larger Wind Turbines (2025). This AU is equivalent to Landscape Character Type (LCT) 178: Southern Uplands with Forest as defined in the NatureScot Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions (2019).
- 1.1.3. Other LCTs within 20 km of the Proposed Varied Development are illustrated in **Figure 8.15** and are illustrated overlaid with the blade tip ZTV at **Figure 8.16**.

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 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 8.16**, illustrating the character types within 20 km overlaid with the blade tip ZTV, there are certain character types from which there would be no or very limited visibility of the Proposed Varied Development. Furthermore, with increased distance from the Proposed Varied Development the potential for indirect and significant effects to occur is reduced. On that basis, all LCTs which are located over 20 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 8.3.1** 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.
- 1.2.4. A column is included within each table to identify which receptors were previously assessed in relation to the Consented Development.

Table 8.3.1 - Preliminary Assessment of LCTs

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
Dumfries and Galloway Assessment Units / Landscape Character Areas				
AU 4: Narrow Valleys - Ken	Part of the access track is located in this area	Theoretical visibility of up to all 11 turbines within 5 km of the Proposed Varied Development. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes	Yes
AU 4: Narrow Valleys – Urr Water	18.6 km to the south-east	No theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 5: Pastoral Valleys – Cairn and Old Water	16.0 km to the east	Negligible theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 7: Dale with Hills – Mid Nithsdale	19.5 km to the east	Negligible theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 8: Flooded Valley – Ken Valley	11.1 km to the south	Theoretical visibility from the LCT within the 20 km LVIA study area from the shores of Loch Ken. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes	Yes
AU 9: Upper Dale – Upper Glenkens	Part of the access track and the temporary construction compound is located in this area	Theoretical visibility of up to all 11 turbines within 5 km of the Proposed Varied Development. Potential for	Yes	Yes

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
		indirect significant effects.		
AU 10: Upland Glens – Castlefairn & Dalwhat	8.7 km to the east	Negligible theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 10: Upland Glens – Scar	14.5 km to the east north-east	Negligible theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 10: Upland Glens – Shinnel	10.7 km to the east north-east	Negligible theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 13: Drumlin Pastures – Deeside	12.0 km to the south	Patchy ZTV coverage within 15 km. Greater theoretical visibility of up to all 11 turbines between approximately 19-20 km. Significant effects are deemed unlikely at this distance.	No	No
AU 15: Upland Fringe – Corsock Fringe	17.7 km to the south-east	No theoretical visibility within 20 km.	No	No
AU 15: Upland Fringe – Cairn Fringe	18.7 km to the south-east	No theoretical visibility within 20 km.	No	No
AU 19: Foothills – Dalmacallan	9.1 km to the east	Theoretical visibility within 15 km largely limited to Big Morton Hill at approximately 11 km. Potential	No	No

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
		for indirect significant effects within this small area at the western edge of the LCT unit. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences including operational Wether Hill Wind Farm.		
AU 19: Foothills – Kier	9.1 km to the east	Negligible theoretical visibility within 20 km.	No	No
AU 19: Foothills Nithsdale	18.7 km to the east	No theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 19: Foothills – Tynron	14.9 km to the east	No theoretical visibility.	No	No
AU 20: Foothills with Forest – Cairnsmore	16.7 km to the south-west	Isolated area of theoretical visibility on north-east facing slopes near Clatteringshaws Loch. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to influence of intervening forestry.	No	No
AU 20: Foothills with Forest – Rhinns of Kells	4.7 km to the south-west	Extensive theoretical visibility within 15 km. Potential	Yes	Yes

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
		for indirect significant effects.		
AU 20: Foothills with Forest – Stroan	2.9 km to the south	Intermittent theoretical visibility within 20 km study area, particularly within 10 km. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes	Yes
AU 21: Southern Uplands – Carsphairn	0.1 km to the west (adjacent to western site boundary)	Theoretical visibility of up to all 11 turbines within close proximity of the Proposed Varied Development. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes	Yes
AU 21: Southern Uplands – Nithsdale	9.7 km to the north-east	Theoretical visibility largely limited to hill peaks to the north of Scaur Water within 15 km. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences including the operational wind farms at Windy Rig and Wether Hill.	No	No
AU 22: Southern Uplands with	4.5 km to the north-west	Patchy ZTV coverage largely limited to Lamford Hill at south	No	No

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
Forest - Carsphairn		western edge of LCT unit. Potential for isolated indirect significant effects within limited part of this LCT due to proximity.		
AU 22: Southern Uplands with Forest - Ken	Proposed Varied Development is primarily located in this area	Potential for direct and indirect significant effects as the Proposed Varied Development and most of the associated infrastructure is located within this LCT.	Yes	Yes
AU 24: Rugged Granite Uplands – Rhinns of Kells	6.2 km to the west	Extensive theoretical visibility within 15 km. Potential for indirect significant effects.	Yes	Yes
AU 24: Rugged Granite Uplands – Merrick	15.7 km to the west	Theoretical visibility within 20 km limited to the isolated hill top of Cairngarroch over 19 km away. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences including the operational	No	No

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
		Benbrack wind farm.		
AU 25: Rugged Granite Uplands with Forest – Cairn Edward	14.3 km to the south	Theoretical visibility within 20 km study area includes the open hill top of Cairnsmore or Black Craig of Dee, approximately 17 km away. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to influence of intervening forestry.	No	No
AU 25: Rugged Granite Uplands with Forest – Merrick	10.7 km to the west	No theoretical visibility.	No	No
East Ayrshire Landscape Character Types				
LCT 10: Upland River Valley – Doon Valley	15.0 km to the north-west	Negligible theoretical visibility.	No	No
LCT 14: Upland Glen	5.7 km to the north	Theoretical visibility limited to south-east facing slopes of Wedder Hill. Significant effects considered unlikely due to proximity of Wind Standard wind farm.	No	No

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
LCT 15: Upland Basin	14.4 km to the north	No theoretical visibility.	No	No
LCT 17a: Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining	15.7 km to the north-west	No theoretical visibility.	No	No
LCT 20a: East Ayrshire Southern Uplands – east of Glen Afton	5.3 km to the north north-east	Theoretical visibility limited to south facing slopes of Blackcraig Hill, approximately 11 km away. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences, including the operational Afton wind farm.	No	No
LCT 20a: East Ayrshire Southern Uplands – west of Glen Afton	11.6 km to the north	No theoretical visibility.	No	No
LCT 20c: Southern Uplands with Forest	5.7 km to the north	Blade tips of 1-3 turbines theoretically visible from Enoch Hill. Significant effects unlikely due to forestry and operational wind farms in closer proximity.	No	No

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
LCT 21: Rugged Uplands, Lochs and Forests	11.0 km to the north-west	Patchy theoretical visibility within 20 km study area from east facing shore of Loch Doon. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences, including the operational Benbrack wind farm.	No	No
South Ayrshire Landscape Character Types				
LCT 13: Intimate Pastoral Valley	18.3 km to the west north-west	Negligible theoretical visibility within 20 km.	No	No
LCT 17b: Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley	18.6 km to the west north-west	Patchy theoretical visibility in vicinity of operational Dersalloch wind farm. Significant effects considered unlikely.	No	No
LCT 21: Rugged Uplands, Lochs & Forest	16.4 km to the west north-west	Theoretical visibility from east facing slopes at Doon of Waterhead. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences, including the operational	No	No

Landscape Character Type	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
		Benbrack Wind Farm.		

1.3. Preliminary Assessment of Designated Sites

Table 8.3.2 Preliminary Assessment of Designated Sites

Designation	Location Relative to the Proposed Varied Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required	Previously Assessed
Local Landscape Areas				
Doon Valley	11.3 km west north-west	Patchy theoretical visibility at over 10 km away. Significant effects unlikely.	No	No
Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area	Partly falls within western edge of site boundary	Extensive theoretical visibility in proximity to Proposed Varied Development. Potential for significant effects.	Yes	Yes
High Garrick Hills	16.4 km west	Patchy theoretical visibility at over 15 km away. Significant effects unlikely.	No	No
Thornhill Uplands	7.4 km east	Isolated patch of theoretical visibility on Big Morton Hill. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences including operational Wether Hill Wind Farm.	No	No

Uplands and Moorlands	5.3 km north	Isolated patches of theoretical visibility on Blackcraig Hill and Wedder Hill. Potential for isolated significant effects. Significant effects unlikely at this distance due to intervening influences including operational Afton and Windy Rig Wind Farms.	No	No
Gardens and Designed Landscapes				
Craigengillan	15.4 km west north-west	Theoretical visibility limited to up to 6 turbines at c. 17 km away. Significant effects unlikely.	No	No

References

Dumfries and Galloway Council (2020) *Dumfries and Galloway Council Local Development Plan 2, Wind Energy Development: Development Management Considerations*. Available at: https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-05/Wind-Energy-SG-Final-PDF-2025-Version_0.pdf. Accessed on: 10 March 2026.

Dumfries and Galloway Council / Carol Anderson Landscape Associates (2025) *Dumfries and Galloway Wind Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study Assessment of Larger Wind Turbines*. Available at: https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/Dumfries%20%26%20Galloway%20Wind%20Energy%20Landscape%20Sensitivity%20Study_0.pdf. Accessed on 10 March 2026.

Dumfries and Galloway Council (2025). *Wind Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study Assessment of Smaller Wind Turbines*. Available at: <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-11/dgwLSS-smaller-wind-turbines-nov-2025.pdf>. Accessed on 10 March 2026.

East Ayrshire Council / Carol Anderson Landscape Associates (2018) *East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study*. Available at: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/L/Landscape-wind-capacity-study.pdf>. Accessed on 05 June 2026.

South Ayrshire Council / Carol Anderson Landscape Associates (2018) *South Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study Updated August 2018*. Available at: https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/media/8247/South-Ayrshire-Landscape-Wind-Capacity-Study-Final-August-2018/pdf/South_Ayrshire_Landscape_Wind_Capacity_Study_-_Final_August_2018.pdf?m=1678826246583. Accessed on 05 June 2026.

South Ayrshire Council / Carol Anderson Landscape Associates (2018) *South Ayrshire Landscape Capacity Study – Appendix Updated August 2018*. Available at: https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/media/8232/Landscape-wind-capacity-Annex-D-Combined/pdf/Landscape_wind_capacity_Annex_D_Combined.pdf?m=1678826243607. Accessed on 05 June 2026.