

Technical Appendix 4.3: Landscape Assessment

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1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Technical Appendix (TA) of Chapter 4 Landscape and Visual Amenity identifies and assesses the effects on the landscape fabric of the Site and the landscape character of the wider Study Area, as a result of the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**.
- 1.2.1 The landscape assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in **TA 4.1: LVIA Methodology, (EIAR Volume 4)** and is based on professional judgement.
- 1.3.1 This TA should also be read in conjunction with the following:
 - **Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary (NTS)**
 - Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual;
 - **Volume 2 – Main Report:**
 - Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity;
 - **Volume 3a – Figures (Figures 4.1 to 4.17);**
 - **Volume 3b – Visualisations (Figures 4.18.1 to 4.36.6);**
 - **Volume 4 – Technical Appendices:**
 - TA 4.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Methodology;
 - TA 4.2: Operational and Under-Construction Sites within 25 km;
 - TA 4.4: Visual Assessment;
 - TA 4.5: Cumulative Assessment;
 - TA 4.6: Aviation Lighting Assessment;
 - TA 4.7: Implications on Designated Landscapes; and
 - TA 4.8: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.

1.2 Scope of Assessment

Study Area

- 2.1.1 The extent of the initial Study Area for the landscape assessment was set at 45 kilometres (km) in accordance with good practice (NatureScot, 2017), which recommends a Study Area of 45 km for turbines above 150 metres (m) in height. The turbines proposed are based on a candidate turbine up to 220 m tip height, as shown on **Figure 2.2 (EIAR Volume 3a)**.
- 2.2.1 Potential landscape effects considered were proposed in the Ravengill Energy Park (the Project) Scoping Report, 2025¹ to be 20 kilometres (km) from the outermost turbines. Subsequently, the layout design has been revised and a new review of landscape character within 20 km undertaken. This included consideration of landform (shown on **Figure 4.1 (EIAR Volume 3a)**), Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping (**Figures 4.2.1 – 4.4 (EIAR Volume 3a)**), landscape designations (**Figure 4.4 (EIAR Volume 3a)**), nearby operational and under-construction wind farms (**Figure 4.6 (EIAR Volume**

3a)), Site context (**Figure 4.7 (EIAR Volume 3a)**), Landscape Character Types (LCT) (**Figure 4.8 (EIAR Volume 3a)**), and viewpoints (**Figure 4.9 (EIAR Volume 3a)**). This also included verification in the Study Area via fieldwork. The conclusions of the updated review of LCTs are set out in Table TA 4.3.1 of this Appendix.

1.3 Landscape Baseline

Landscape Character

- 3.1.1 Landscape character is defined as a distinct, recognisable, and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another. LCTs or Landscape Character Areas (LCA) refer to different types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature and can occur more than once in different parts of the country. However, wherever they occur, they share broadly similar combinations of geology, soils, climate, flora and fauna, and they interact with, and are perceived alongside, cultural and social components of historical and cultural heritage land use, settlement, enclosure and other human interventions.

Landscape Sources

- 3.2.1 The NatureScot (2019) database identifies distinct LCTs (at a 1:50,000 scale), and is the most recent landscape character assessment covering the Study Area. These LCTs comprise geographical areas defined by combinations of landform, landcover and pattern to convey a sense of place,. For each LCT identified, NatureScot has set out the location and context, key characteristics and description. The LCTs identified form the basis of this assessment on landscape character and were verified during fieldwork.
- 3.3.1 The LCT baseline was also informed by the following sources:
 - Ordnance Survey (OS) topographic and geological maps;
 - SiteLink (NatureScot, 2025)²;
 - Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions (NatureScot, 2019)³;
 - Landscape Character Assessment: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley – Landscape Evolution and Influences (NatureScot, 2019)⁴;
 - South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment (Ironside Farrar, 2010)⁵;
 - Wild Land Areas (SNH, 2017)⁶;
 - The Landscapes of Scotland (NatureScot, 2012)⁷;
 - Natural Heritage Zones: A national Assessment of Scotland’s Landscapes (SNH, 2002)⁸;
 - South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (South Lanarkshire Council (SAC), 2021)⁹;

¹ Ramboll. (2025) Ravengill Energy Park, EIA Scoping Report. Available online from: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00006172> [Accessed: 19th February 2026]

² NatureScot. (2025) SiteLink. Available online from: <https://sitelink.nature.scot/home> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

³ NatureScot. (2019) Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions. Available online from: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

⁴ NatureScot. (2019) Landscape Character Assessment: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley – Landscape Evolution and Influences. Available online from: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/archive/landscape-character-assessment-glasgow-and-clyde-valley-landscape-evolution-and-influences> [Accessed: 22nd June 2026]

⁵ Ironside Farrar (2010) South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment. South Lanarkshire Council.

⁶ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2017) Wild Land Areas. Available online at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/wild-land-areas-map-and-descriptions-2014> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

⁷ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2012) Landscapes of Scotland. Available online at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/landscapes-scotland-map-and-descriptions> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

⁸ Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) Natural Heritage Zones: A National Assessment of Scotland’s Landscapes Available online from: <https://www.nature.scot/landscapes-and-habitats/about-scotlands-landscapes/landscape-variety-scotland> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

⁹ South Lanarkshire Council. (2021) South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2. Available online from: <https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/developmentplan2> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

- South Lanarkshire Validating Local Landscape Designations (Ironside Farrar, 2010)¹⁰;
- South Lanarkshire Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy (Ironside Farrar, 2016)¹¹; and
- Regional Scenic Areas TECHNICAL PAPER (Dumfries and Galloway, 2018)¹².

1.4 The Site

Site Baseline

- 4.1.1 The Site is located entirely within the administrative boundary of South Lanarkshire Council, on elevated upland ground within the Southern Uplands, which form part of a wider upland plateau extending across the south of Scotland. Covering approximately 2,555 hectares (ha), the Site occupies on an area of land extending southwards from the foothills above the Glengonnar Water to the north, the B7040 road in the south, extending west of the A74 (M) road to the Snar Water. The Site boundary is approximately 530 m from Leadhills village at its closest point.

1.5 Landscape within 20 km from the Proposed Development

Landscape Context

- 5.1.1 **Figure 4.1, (EIAR Volume 3a)** shows the initial 45 km Study Area, which extends between Whitburn in the north to the southern outskirts of Dumfries in the south, Ettrickbridge in the east, and Coylton in the west. Within 45 km of the Site, the landscape varies and includes open moorland, improved grassland and semi-improved grassland, with areas of forestry plantation. The Southern Uplands are orientated in an east - west direction across the middle of the 45 km Study Area, separating plateau farmland and moorland surrounding the outskirts of Glasgow to the north and the lower lying areas of Annandale and Nithsdale to the south which are contained by a series of foothills and farmland leading to the lower lying land surrounding the Solway Coast.
- 5.2.1 This complex landscape includes a key transport corridor between Scotland and England which passes through a series of steep glens within the Southern Uplands. This includes the M74 Motorway (which changes name to the A74 (M) road south of Abington), the West Coast Railway Line and key utility infrastructure including the main west coast interconnector 400 kV overhead line and high-pressure gas pipelines.
- 5.3.1 A total of 45 operational wind farms and five developments currently under-construction are located within 25 km of the Proposed Development as of **6th March 2026**. These are shown on **Figure 4.6 (EIAR Volume 3a)** and listed in **Technical Appendix 4.2 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

Landscape Character

- 5.4.1 There is a total of 20 LCTs within the 20 km Study Area covering the Southern Uplands, moorland, farmland and river valley landscapes of varying scales. A review of potential visibility of the Proposed Development was undertaken using the ZTV shown on **Figure 4.8 (EIAR Volume 3a)** and visualisations within **EIAR Volume 3b**. This established which LCTs have the potential for significant effects from the Proposed Development and are therefore assessed in more detail in this TA.

Future Landscape Baseline

- 5.5.1 Within the 20 km Study Area, the development of renewable energy would continue without the Proposed Development due to a combination of the Scottish Government's onshore targets to achieve net-zero by 2045, and the high wind speeds available. This could also potentially include developments

which are currently within the planning system (as shown on **Figure 4.12 (EIAR Volume 3a)**) and new renewable energy proposals yet to be developed.

- 5.6.1 Climate change would bring subtle changes to the landscape from higher temperatures, increased rainfall, stronger winds, including storms. This may result in changes to soils and vegetation and different approaches to agriculture, including grazing and crops. Some of these changes vary in duration; for example, strong winds may result in damage or felling of trees, which would be instantly visible, to a more gradual change in vegetation through plant diseases and changes in habitat.
- 5.7.1 The Site is expected to stay similar to the current landscape baseline and continue to be moorland managed for grouse rough pasture and forestry.

1.6 Assessment of Landscape Effects

Proposed Development

- 6.1.1 The following elements of the Proposed Development are proposed within the Site:
- up to 21 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 220 m;
 - permanent foundations supporting each wind turbine, and associated crane hardstanding at each wind turbine base;
 - a temporary construction site entrance from the A74(M) motorway;
 - two further site entrances off the B797 road for site traffic and a crossing point on the C class road between the B797 and Crawfordjohn;
 - a series of new on-site access tracks with associated watercourse crossings (where the final layout dictates), which may include upgrade and/or relocation of existing access tracks across the Site;
 - underground power cables, generally laid in trenches alongside access tracks;
 - onsite substation and control building;
 - temporary construction compounds and laydown areas;
 - a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with approximately 50-Megawatt (MW) capacity, co-located with the on-site substation;
 - four temporary construction compounds and laydown areas, the main one located adjacent to the substation and BESS sites and three satellite areas: two located in the western area of the Site and the other located in the northern area.
- 6.2.1 In addition, the following ancillary works would be necessary during the construction phase:
- extraction of rock from borrow pits. Four borrow pit search areas have been located within the Site; and
 - temporary on-site concrete batching plant. This would be located within the temporary compound areas and/or one of the borrow pit search areas.
- 6.3.1 The Proposed Development would be in three distinct phases as follows:
- Construction Phase: short-term;
 - Operational Phase: long-term covering approximately 40-year lifespan; and
 - Decommissioning Phase: short-term.

¹⁰ Ironside Farrar (2010) South Lanarkshire Validating Local Landscape Designations. South Lanarkshire Council.
¹¹ Ironside Farrar (2016) South Lanarkshire Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy. South Lanarkshire Council.

¹² Dumfries and Galloway Council. (2018) Dumfries and Galloway Council LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 Regional Scenic Areas TECHNICAL PAPER Available from: https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Regional_Scenic_Areas_Technical_Paper.pdf [Accessed 26th February 2026]

- 6.4.1 Using a precautionary approach, unless otherwise stated, all likely landscape effects identified are considered to be negative or adverse. Decommissioning effects are considered to be similar to the construction phase but would be generally shorter in duration and reversible following reinstatement.

Effects on the Site and Landscape Fabric

- 6.5.1 The Site is approximately 2,555.8 hectares (ha) of predominantly open managed moorland, improved grassland and semi-improved grassland, with a strip of forestry east of the B797 road within the valley containing the Glengonnar Water. This comprises a mixture of acid dry dwarf shrub heath, marshy grassland, unimproved acid grassland, blanket bog, wet dwarf shrub heath and wet modified bog. Other habitat types distributed across the Site include bracken, recently felled coniferous plantation, semi-improved grassland and acid/neutral flushes. Much of the landscape has been subject to mineral prospecting since the 12th century
- 6.6.1 The following viewpoints are representative of views from valleys within the Site:
- Viewpoint 6: B797 Road (**Figure 4.24.1-13, EIAR Volume 3b**); and
 - Viewpoint 10: B7040 Shortcleugh (**Figure 4.28.1-8, EIAR Volume 3b**).
- 6.7.1 The general topography of the Site is one of undulating, interlocking rounded hills and small upland glens, characteristic of the wider Southern Uplands. The Site covers a range of elevations including the higher summits of Ravengill Dod (538 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)), Harryburn Brae (499 m AOD), Wellgrain Dod (555 m AOD), Brown Dod (489 m AOD), Snarhead Hill (511 m AOD), and Sowen Dod (546 m AOD). One steep-sided glen splits the Site in two and contains the B797 road and Glengonnar Water. To the south, the Site abuts a glen containing the B7040 road and Elvan Water.
- 6.8.1 The Site forms part of the skyline of the Southern Uplands observed from the Duneaton Water valley and wider landscape to the north. Within the Site, there is a perception of remoteness and tranquillity, reducing in proximity to the B797 and B7040 roads, Leadhills and where the M74 Motorway / A74(M) road and West Coast Railway Line are visible.
- 6.9.1 The Site is approximately 530 m at its closest point to the west of Leadhills, with the nearest turbine being located approximately 1.8 km to the northwest of the village. Further properties in close vicinity to the Site are limited and located on the B797 road passing through the Site and the B7040 road to the south.
- 6.10.1 The Site is drained by various small watercourses into the Glengonnar Water within the Site extending northwards, the Elvan Water to the south, and Snar Water to the west.
- 6.11.1 There is one Scheduled Monument within the Site, Waterhead, platform settlement 900m N of (SM4714). The monument comprises a single, prehistoric house platform, 14.4 m in diameter scooped into the southeast facing slopes overlooking the valley of Glengonnar Water. There are no Listed Buildings with the Site, and no part of the Site is within a Conservation Area, Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape, or Inventory Historic Battlefield. Ninety-two non-designated heritage assets have been identified within the Site. These along with the SM indicate landscape features of higher value.
- 6.12.1 More detailed information on archaeology, ecology and hydrology within the Site are detailed in the following chapters:
- Volume 2 – Main Report:**
 - Chapter 5: Cultural Heritage;**
 - Chapter 6: Ecology;** and
 - Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology.**

- 6.13.1 The Site lies entirely within LCT 217 Southern Uplands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley (NatureScot, 2019), the most recent landscape character assessment undertaken covering the Site. The key characteristics of the LCT identified by NatureScot¹³ as follows:

- 'Extensive, large-scale upland landscape with strong but smooth relief.*
- Glacial carved and smoothed landforms, including u-shaped valleys, hanging valleys and corries.*
- Extensive mosaics of heath, with a transition to rough grazing on lower tops or slopes.*
- Prominent isolated conifer forests and old stands of Scots pine.*
- Largely undeveloped, except for occasional upland farms, shielings and Clyde wind farm.*
- Important travel and transmission lines pass through the area are the A74, west coast mainline railway and Scotland-England interconnector pylon line*
- Significant archaeological sites, particularly from the Bronze and Iron Age periods.*
- Prominent hill ranges in views from many areas.*
- Wide ranging panoramic views from the hill summits.'* (NatureScot, 2019)

- 6.14.1 Further descriptions of landscape character are detailed in previous studies undertaken by SNH and local authorities, as listed in paragraph 1.3.3 above. Details from these studies are mentioned in the landscape assessment where relevant. The Site, at a local level, largely conforms to the descriptions of the landscape provided in these documents.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

- 6.15.1 The landscape baseline described above is considered to have the ability to accommodate a large typology wind development, which could make a significant contribution to renewable energy needs. Therefore, the susceptibility of the landscape within the Site is judged as **Low**.
- 6.16.1 The majority of the Site is designated at a local level as the Leadhills and Lowther Hills Special Landscape Area (SLA), the exception being the northeastern side which lies beyond the SLA, see **Figure 4.5, (EIAR Volume 3a)**. Other landscape features of higher sensitivity include several footpaths that are used by walkers accessing the various summits within the Site. Landscape value is considered to be **Medium**.
- 6.17.1 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape of the Site is considered **Medium**.

During Construction and Decommissioning Phases

- 6.18.1 During construction and decommissioning, the Site would become active with the presence of vehicles including flashing beacons and construction activities within the footprint of the Proposed Development. Activities would be associated the creation and operation of construction compounds, site clearance, the extraction of stone from borrow pits for the access roads and platforms, the construction of tracks, laydown areas, import of materials, crane works associated with erecting turbines, construction of the control building, substation, BESS, and installation of electrical cables linking the turbines with the substation. This would be followed by reinstatement works at the end of the construction phase where areas around project components would be restored for revegetation.
- 6.19.1 During the decommissioning phase, project components would generally be removed from the Site and Site restoration undertaken.

¹³ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 217 SOUTHERN UPLANDS – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20217%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20-%20Glasgow%20&%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

- 6.20.1 The construction and decommissioning phases would be short-term in duration and reversible in that construction activities would cease, and operational effects would take over, followed by the decommissioning phase.
- 6.21.1 The extent of physical effects of the works within the Site would involve a relatively small geographical proportion of the Site as a whole, comprising approximately 36.92 ha which equates to 1.45 % . The larger part of the Site would be physically unaffected by either construction, operation or decommissioning phases and would continue to be managed as grouse moorland. The scale of the components, such as wind turbines and supporting infrastructure, would change the moorland characteristics of the Site. The magnitude of change during the construction and decommissioning phases would be **High**, temporary, and reversible. This phase would be similar to the activities discussed during construction but would be undertaken over a shorter timeframe and involve less disturbance of the ground.
- 6.22.1 The predicted effect on the Site is judged to be **significant (Major)** for the duration of the construction and decommissioning phases

During Operation and Maintenance Phase

- 6.23.1 During the operational and maintenance phase, the actual footprint of the Proposed Development would reduce in size and activity compared to the construction and decommissioning phases. This would be as a result of the construction compounds and borrow pits being restored and activities associated with the operation and maintenance of the turbines being limited to the operation and maintenance of the assets i.e, turbines, substation, BESS and supporting infrastructure.
- 6.24.1 The magnitude associated with the change from grouse moorland to an operating renewable energy generating site with supporting ground-level infrastructure would be **High** and long-term. The management of grouse moorland within the Site would continue during the operational and maintenance phase. Following reinstatement after the decommissioning phases, landscape effects would generally be reversible.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT

- 6.25.1 Overall, the predicted effect on the Site is judged to be **significant (Major)** for the duration of the operation and maintenance, phases.

1.7 Operational Effects on LCTs

- 7.1.1 The following provides an initial review of LCTs within 20 km from the nearest turbines based on the design freeze layout and ZTVs.

Table 4.3.1: Overview of Potential Effects on LCTs within the 20 km Study Area		
LCT	Location and Theoretical Visibility	Scoped in or out of Detailed Assessment
69. Upland River Valleys - Ayrshire ¹⁴	Located in two units to the northwest and west of the Site, characteristic of sections of the River Ayr and River Nith between approximately 14.3 – 18.5 km from the outermost turbines. No	Scoped out

Table 4.3.1: Overview of Potential Effects on LCTs within the 20 km Study Area		
LCT	Location and Theoretical Visibility	Scoped in or out of Detailed Assessment
	theoretical visibility would occur within the River Ayr unit, and very limited theoretical visibility of 1-21 turbines on the southern side of the River Nith. This would be experienced in the nearby context of Hare Hill Wind Farm, and it is not considered that the key characteristics of the LCT would be altered by the addition of the Proposed Development to the baseline which would be between approximately 19.7 – 24.2 km from the nearest turbines.	
78. Plateau Moorland - Ayrshire ¹⁵	This LCT is characteristic of two locations to the north and south of the River Ayr between approximately 12.2 – 14.4 km from the Site. Both units of the LCT are predicted to receive limited theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines. This would occur in elevated locations such as Middlefield Law (166 m AOD), and Backside Hill (430 m AOD) in the northern unit, and Wardlaw Hill (497 m AOD), Cairn Table (593 m AOD), and Auchentoch Hill (465 m AOD) in the southern unit. Existing wind farm developments are a common feature in the intervening landscape in which the Proposed Development would be further to the southeast at approximately 12.4 km from the nearest turbine. Due to the limited theoretical visibility predicted, and distance, it is not considered that the key characteristics of this LCT would be altered by the addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline.	Scoped out
95. Southern Uplands - Borders ¹⁶	This part of the Southern Uplands is located within the Scottish Borders Council administrative area approximately 9.1 km at its closest point to the east of the Site. Theoretical visibility is predicted to be limited to hill tops and upper slopes such as Craigmoid (553 m AOD), and Hart Fell (808 m AOD) within 20 km. From these locations, 1-21 turbines are predicted to be visible beyond Clyde Wind Farm and its Extension which occupy the foreground at a distance of 10.6 km from the nearest turbine. Due to these reasons, it is not considered that the key characteristics of the LCT would be altered by the Proposed Development.	Scoped out
113. Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor ¹⁷	This LCT is characteristic of the upper section of the valley containing the River Tweed approximately 14.3 km from the Site. A very small area east of Wolfclyde is predicted to receive theoretical visibility of 1-5 turbines at a distance of 19.9 km from the nearest turbine. Therefore, due to the limited theoretical visibility predicted and distance, it is not judged that the key characteristics would be altered by the addition of the Proposed Development to the baseline.	Scoped out
163. Middle Dale - Dumfries & Galloway ¹⁸	Characteristic of Annandale, this LCT is approximately 18.3 km to the southeast of the Site. Theoretical visibility is predicted to be very small within the LCT and confined to 1-5 turbines on the northwest facing slopes and summit of Gallow Hill (254 m AOD) at approximately 19.6 km from the nearest turbine. It is not considered that the key characteristics of the LCT would be affected by the Proposed Development.	Scoped out
165. Upper Dale - Dumfries & Galloway ¹⁹	This LCT covers the upper section of the broad valley containing the River Nith approximately 5.0 km to the southwest of the Site. Theoretical visibility is predicted to occur on the northeast facing	Scoped out

¹⁴ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 69 UPLAND RIVER VALLEYS – AYRSHIRE. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20069%20-%20Upland%20River%20Valleys%20-%20Ayrshire%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

¹⁵ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 78 PLATEAU MOORLAND – AYRSHIRE. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20078%20-%20Plateau%20Moorland%20-%20Ayrshire%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

¹⁶ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 95 SOUTHERN UPLANDS – BORDERS. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20095%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20-%20Borders%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

¹⁷ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 113 UPLAND VALLEY WITH PASTORAL FLOOR. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20113%20-%20Upland%20Valley%20with%20Pastoral%20Floor%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed:19th of February 2026]

¹⁸ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 163 MIDDLE DALE – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20163%20-%20Middle%20Dale%20-%20Dumfries%20&%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: February 19th 2026]

¹⁹ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 165 UPPER DALE – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20165%20-%20Upper%20Dale%20-%20Dumfries%20&%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: February 19th 2026]

Table 4.3.1: Overview of Potential Effects on LCTs within the 20 km Study Area		
LCT	Location and Theoretical Visibility	Scoped in or out of Detailed Assessment
	slopes on the south of the Dale and be between 1 and 21 turbines depending on elevation. This would be within the context of nearby operational wind farms to the south with some screening by woodland occurring within the LCT. The nearest turbine would be 11.7 km to the northeast with turbines visible breaking the horizon of the Southern Uplands. It is not judged that the character of the Dale would be altered by the addition of the Proposed Development.	
166. Upland Glens - Dumfries & Galloway ²⁰	This LCT occurs in 4 separate units to the southeast, south and southwest of the Site. The nearest of these is the Mennock Pass to the south and southwest where theoretical visibility is predicted to be limited to the upper slopes on the southern side of the pass where 1-21 turbines can be seen at distances of 4.2 – 8.0 km from the nearest turbine. No theoretical visibility is predicted for the Dalveen Pass which lies 6.3 km to the south. Similarly, no theoretical visibility is predicted for the Annandale unit which extends between the Devil’s Beeftub and Moffat 13.4 km to the southeast. Theoretical visibility is predicted to be very limited to upper slopes containing the Scar Water approximately 15.3 km to the southwest. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline is not considered to alter the character of each Upland Glen where the focus tends to be on the floor of the glen.	Scoped out
172. Upland Fringe - Dumfries & Galloway ²¹	This LCT covers the eastern side of Nithsdale between Holestane and Dumfries approximately 12.3 km to the south of the Site. No theoretical visibility is predicted.	Scoped out
175. Foothills - Dumfries & Galloway ²²	Located on the western side of Nithsdale, this LCT is situated approximately 9.9 km to the southwest of the Site. Theoretical visibility is predicted to be scattered comprising generally of 1-5 turbines at 14.5 km from the nearest turbine. This would be reduced further by woodland within the LCT, and it is not considered that the addition of the Proposed Development would alter the character of the Foothills.	Scoped out
176. Foothills with Forest - Dumfries & Galloway ²³	Situated approximately 10.6 km to the southeast of the Site, this LCT covers a large area extending southwards to the Forest of Ae. Theoretical visibility is predicted to be limited to the north at Nether Howecleuch where 1-21 turbines are visible and small sporadic areas of 1-5 turbines northeast of Kinnelhead between 11.8 – 19.1 km from the nearest turbine. Due to the distance and limited theoretical visibility predicted, it is not considered that the character of the LCT would be altered by the addition of the Proposed Development.	Scoped out

Table 4.3.1: Overview of Potential Effects on LCTs within the 20 km Study Area		
LCT	Location and Theoretical Visibility	Scoped in or out of Detailed Assessment
177. Southern Uplands - Dumfries & Galloway ²⁴	This LCT occurs in four large areas within the southern half of the 20 km Study Area, one of which covers the uplands surrounding Wanlockhead, abutting the Site within Dumfries and Galloway Council administrative area. Due to its proximity to the Proposed Development, close visibility of the turbines proposed would be received from the unit of this LCT surrounding Wanlockhead potentially resulting in a change in character. The remaining three units located within the 20 km Study Area are approximately 13.2 km to the southeast (Annandale), 7.1 km to the south (Lowther Hills), and 12.6 km to the southwest (Nithsdale). Theoretical visibility is predicted in all three units although this would be confined to the upper slopes and summits. Within the three units, it is not considered that the character of the LCT would change from the addition of the Proposed Development to the baseline.	Wanlockhead Unit – Scoped in Annandale, Lowther Hills and Nithsdale Units – Scoped out
178. Southern Uplands with Forest - Dumfries & Galloway ²⁵	The LCT covers two separate units east and west of Annandale approximately 3.9 km west and 16.9 km southwest of the Site. Despite the close proximity of the western unit, both units of the LCT would receive limited theoretical visibility of all 21 turbines from the upper slopes and summits of elevated ground. Therefore, it is not considered that the addition of the Proposed Development would alter the key characteristics of the LCT.	Scoped out
201. Plateau Farmland - Glasgow & Clyde Valley ²⁶	This LCT covers a large area approximately 13.9 km to the northwest of the Site and covers a section of the M74 Motorway corridor. Comprising farmland and moorland, theoretical visibility is predicted from elevated areas with the Proposed Development being viewed in the context of several operational wind farms that are closer. For this reason, it is not considered that the character of the LCT would be altered by the addition of the Proposed Development.	Scoped out
207. Upland River Valley - Glasgow & Clyde Valley ²⁷	Three units of this LCT are located to the northwest of the Proposed Development covering the Duneaton Water, Douglas Water, and the Logan Water and River Nethan. The Duneaton Water unit of the LCT is situated approximately 450 m from the Site and is predicted to receive widespread theoretical visibility which could alter the character of the valley. The remaining two units would also receive theoretical visibility but would be reduced by intervening landform and be more distant 8.6 km (Douglas Water) and 16.9 km (Logan Water / River Nethan) and it is not considered that the addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would alter the character of both units.	Duneaton Water Unit – Scoped in Douglas Water, Logan Water and River Nethan – Scoped out
208. Broad Valley Upland ²⁸	This LCT covers the valley containing the River Clyde, A702 and A70 roads around the Tinto Hills approximately 2.6 km northeast of the Site at its closest point. Theoretical visibility is predicted	Scoped out

²⁰ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 166 UPLAND GLENS – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20166%20-%20Upland%20Glens%20-%20Dumfries%20%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th February 2026]

²¹ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 172 UPLAND FRINGE – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20172%20-%20Upland%20Fringe%20-%20Dumfries%20%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th February 2026]

²² NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 175 FOOTHILLS – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20175%20-%20Foothills%20-%20Dumfries%20%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th February 2026]

²³ NatureScot (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 176 FOOTHILLS WITH FOREST – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20176%20-%20Foothills%20with%20Forest%20-%20Dumfries%20%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th February 2026]

²⁴ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 177 SOUTHERN UPLANDS – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.sco/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20177%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20-%20Dumfries%20%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [19th of February 2026]

²⁵ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 178 SOUTHERN UPLANDS WITH FOREST – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20178%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20with%20Forest%20-%20Dumfries%20and%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

²⁶ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 201 PLATEAU FARMLAND – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20201%20-%20Plateau%20Farmland%20-%20Glasgow%20%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

²⁷ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 207 UPLAND RIVER VALLEY – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20207%20-%20Upland%20River%20Valley%20-%20Glasgow%20%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

²⁸ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 208 BROAD VALLEY UPLAND. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20208%20-%20Broad%20Valley%20Upland%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

Table 4.3.1: Overview of Potential Effects on LCTs within the 20 km Study Area		
LCT	Location and Theoretical Visibility	Scoped in or out of Detailed Assessment
	north of Abington, extending to Biggar and would be reduced by trees and intervening features within the valley. The proposed turbines would be viewed beyond Clyde Wind Farm, and it is not considered that the addition of the Proposed Development would result in a change in character of the LCT.	
209. Upland Glen - Glasgow & Clyde Valley ²⁹	This LCT is partly found within the Site and is predicted to receive widespread theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development which could alter its character.	Scoped in
210. Undulating Farmland and Hills ³⁰	The LCT is located in two locations in the northeast of the Study Area, north of both Tinto and Biggar approximately 10.1 and 16.6 km from the Site. Theoretical visibility is predicted in both units, with a larger geographical area around the town of Biggar where in theory the Proposed Development would be seen but as a feature beyond Clyde Wind Farm. Therefore, it is not considered that the key characteristic of the LCT would be affected by the Proposed Development.	Scoped out
213. Plateau Moorlands - Glasgow & Clyde Valley ³¹	This LCT is located in two locations to the northwest of the Site at approximately 3.6 and 12.1 km distance. Both units have operational wind farms within them including Middle Muir, Andershaw and Hagshaw Hill, with Clyde being prominent to the southeast. The addition of the Proposed Development to the baseline beyond the LCT (which already hosts wind farms) is not considered to alter the characteristics of both units of the LCT.	Scoped out
217. Southern Uplands - Glasgow & Clyde Valley ³²	The Proposed Development would be located within this LCT and potentially could alter its character.	Scoped in
218. Rounded Landmark Hills ³³	The LCT covers the Tinto Hills approximately 6.7 km from the Site. Theoretical visibility is predicted to occur on south facing slopes and summits of Dungavel Hill (510 m AOD), and Tinto (711) and would be viewed beyond Clyde Wind Farm. It is not considered that the addition of the Proposed Development would alter the key characteristics of the LCT.	Scoped out

Detailed Assessment of Landscape Character

- 7.2.1
- The following provides an assessment of the LCTs taken forward for detailed assessment within the 20 km Study Area. It should be noted that the sensitivity of LCTs assessed below is the sensitivity to development outside the Site rather than within it.
- 7.3.1
- The following LCTs are scoped in to a detailed assessment:
- 177. Southern Uplands - Dumfries & Galloway: Wanlockhead Unit;
- 207. Upland River Valley - Glasgow & Clyde Valley: Duneaton Water Unit;
- 209. Upland Glen - Glasgow & Clyde Valley; and

-
- 217 Southern Uplands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley.

177. Southern Uplands - Dumfries & Galloway: Wanlockhead Unit

BASELINE

- 7.4.1
- The Wanlockhead unit of this LCT is characteristic of a larger area that extends across East Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, South Lanarkshire and the Scottish Borders. Situated adjacent to the Site boundary to the southwest, this LCT is predominantly moorland with rounded summits and small glens interspersed with forestry plantations. In the northwest, the B740 road winds its way through a narrow valley containing the Crawick Water.
- 7.5.1
- Relatively remote with a perception of tranquillity, the unit is criss-crossed with tracks used for both grouse management and walking, one of which, the SUW circles Well Hill offering two separate routes between Wanlockhead and Sanquhar.
- 7.6.1
- NatureScot identifies the key characteristics of Southern Uplands – Dumfries & Galloway LCT as follows:
- *'Large, smooth dome/conical shaped hills, predominantly grass-covered.*
- *Open and exposed character except within incised valleys.*
- *Dramatically sculpted landforms and awe-inspiring scale.*
- *Distinctive dark brown/purple colour of heather on some of the higher areas.*
- *Pockets of woodland in incised valleys.*
- *Stone dykes occasionally define the lower limit.*
- *Legacy of lead and other mining activity, with extensive archaeological remains around the former mining village of Wanlockhead.*
- *Wind farms locally characteristic, away from the more dramatic, scenic and sculptural slopes and skylines.'* (NatureScot, 2019)³⁴
- 7.7.1
- Viewpoint 18: Glengaber Hill (see **Figures 4.38.1-6, EIAR Volume 3b**) is representative of the views from this LCT and the SUW.
- LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY
-
- 7.8.1
- The landscape is large in scale, open with an exposed character interspersed with smaller-scale incised glens in between rounded hills. Wind development is a characteristic in some units of this LCT with currently no operational or under-construction developments located within the Wanlockhead unit. However, the unit does obtain visibility of operational developments in nearby neighbouring LCTs. Landscape susceptibility to the Proposed Development is judged as **Low**.
- 7.9.1
- Part of this LCT is located within the Thornhill Uplands Regional Scenic Area (RSA), a regional designation set out in the Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2 - 2019³⁵. Other sensitive elements within this unit of the LCT includes sections of the SUW and summits of Wedder Dodd (445

²⁹ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 209 UPLAND GLEN – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20209%20-%20Upland%20Glen%20-%20Glasgow%20&%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

³⁰ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 210 UNDULATING FARMLAND AND HILLS. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20210%20-%20Undulating%20Farmland%20and%20Hills%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

³¹ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 213 PLATEAU MOORLANDS – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20213%20-%20Plateau%20Moorlands%20-%20Glasgow%20&%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

³² NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 217 SOUTHERN UPLANDS – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20217%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20-%20Glasgow%20&%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

³³ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 218 ROUNDED LANDMARK HILLS. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20218%20-%20Rounded%20Landmark%20Hills%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 19th of February 2026]

³⁴ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Type 177 SOUTHERN UPLANDS – DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20177%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20-%20Dumfries%20&%20Galloway%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [26th of February 2026]

³⁵ Dumfries and Galloway Council. (2019) Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2. Available from: <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/planning-building/planning/planning-policy/local-development-plan/local-development-plan-2-ldp2> [Accessed 19th of February]

m AOD), Stood Hill (587 m AOD), Glengaber Hill (515 m AOD) and Conrig Hill (485 m AOD). Landscape value is considered to be **Medium**.

7.10.1 Overall, landscape sensitivity of the Wanlockhead unit of LCT 177 Southern Uplands is considered to be **Medium**.

LANDSCAPE MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

7.11.1 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would be from summits and upper slopes of northeast facing hills, gradually reducing in geographical coverage beyond 5 km due to screening by the intervening landform. From these locations, operational and under-construction developments can be observed at longer distances, and the addition of the Proposed Development would result in turbines being closer to the unit, visible from a large area within 5 km from the outermost turbines, and thereafter, limited.

7.12.1 The size and scale of the change in views looking beyond the unit would be high with the key characteristics largely remaining the same. Therefore, where visible it is judged that magnitude of change would be **Medium**, reducing to **Negligible** where screening occurs and in lower lying areas where no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines is predicted during the duration of the operational phase, and would be long-term and reversible.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT

7.13.1 The Proposed Development would not be located within this unit of the LCT and effects would be indirect. The main effect upon the LCT would be from views of turbines from elevated areas looking beyond the LCT. It is predicted that the effect on the character of the Wanlockhead Unit of LCT 177 Southern Uplands – Dumfries & Galloway is judged to be **significant (Moderate)** for a localised area within 5 km to the southwest, thereafter, reducing to **not significant (Negligible)**

207. Upland River Valley - Glasgow & Clyde Valley: Duneaton Water Unit

BASELINE

7.14.1 Of the four units of this LCT located within the 45 km Study Area, the Duneaton Water unit has been taken forward for assessment due to its proximity to the north of the Site.

7.15.1 The other two units are located further to the northwest covering the Douglas Water at approximately 8.6 km and the Logan Water and River Nethan approximately 16.9 km from the Site.

7.16.1 The Duneaton Water unit of this LCT marks where the lowlands surrounding Glasgow in the north, meet the Southern Uplands to the south. Contrasting in scale, the unit is predominantly farmland with small areas of forestry and woodland and is smaller scale within the valley. At the top of the valley sides and in moorland areas to the west, the scale is larger. The pattern of the landscape is defined by the Duneaton Water and B740 road, which travel along the valley, and is linear, with fields being contained by post and wire fencing, hedgerows and trees. Settlement is limited to Crawfordjohn and smaller settlements and individual properties following the B740 road extending onto valley sides above waterbodies. The overall perception of the valley is of semi-remoteness as it extends westwards and the level of settlement reduces. In several places, there are the remnants of former mine workings.

7.17.1 The following viewpoints are representative of this unit of the LCT:

- Viewpoint 2: Crawfordjohn (see **Figures 4.22.1-6, (EIAR Volume 3b)**); and
- Viewpoint 16: Scottish Hill Track 58 (see **Figures 4.36.1-8, (EIAR Volume 3b)**).

7.18.1 NatureScot identifies the key characteristics of Upland River Valley – Glasgow & Clyde Valley LCT³⁶ as follows:

- *'A series of valleys formed along faultlines through the Plateau Moorlands and paired with valleys to the south and west in Ayrshire.*
- *South-west to north-east orientation of the valleys.*
- *Strong contrast between the wooded and settled character of the valleys and the exposed enclosing uplands.*
- *Transition from the exposed upper reaches to more sheltered lowland areas.'*

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

7.19.1 The Duneaton Water unit is considered to have a **Medium** susceptibility to the Proposed Development due to forming a narrow valley between upland and plateau landscapes and is susceptible to change from large-scale development.

7.20.1 The eastern half of the Duneaton Water unit is within the Leadhills and Lowther Hills SLA. No other national or local landscape designations cover the three units within 15 km of the Site. Overall, landscape value is considered as **Medium**.

7.21.1 Overall, sensitivity of the Duneaton Water unit of the LCT is assessed as **High**.

LANDSCAPE MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

7.22.1 The ZTV indicates widespread theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines varying between 1-21 turbines. The northern side of the valley would obtain views of the proposed turbines in their entirety. Two small locations are predicted to receive no theoretical visibility due to screening by intervening landform, east of Gilkerscleuch Mains, and south and southwest of Netherhall. Visibility of the proposed turbines would reduce as a consequence of woodland and small forestry plantations within the unit, however, due to its proximity to the Proposed Development, visibility would cover a large geographical area within the unit.

7.23.1 The size and scale of the change to the character of the Duneaton Water would be high, covering a large geographical area including the valley floor and sides of the unit affecting the skyline of the valley in views to the to the south. These changes would be long-term during operational phase and reversed following the decommissioning phase. This would occur approximately 8 km from the outermost turbinescovering a localised area . The Proposed Development would extend turbines westwards from Clyde Wind Farm and there would be a sufficient gap between the two developments that they would be read as two wind farms. Magnitude of change for the Duneaton Water unit of the LCT is judged as **High**.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT

7.24.1 The effect on character for the Duneaton Water unit of the LCT is judged as **significant (Major)**.

209. Upland Glen - Glasgow & Clyde Valley

BASELINE

7.25.1 This LCT occupies a section of the corridor containing the M74 Motorway where it changes to the A74 (M) road at Abington, the West Coast Railway Line, and a narrow glen extending westwards along the Glengonnar Water. Small to medium in scale, activity within the LCT is associated with movement,

³⁶ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 207, UPLAND RIVER VALLEY – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20207%20-%20Upland%20River%20Valley%20-%20Glasgow%20&%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 26th February 2026]

mainly traffic on the M74 Motorway, A74 (M) road, B797 road and trains on the high-speed West Coast Railway Line. The underlying character of the glens is of the Southern Uplands of rough pasture and historic features associated with the keeping of livestock such as dry-stone walls and shielings. Overtime, agriculture has remained as the main land use but with more modern techniques and there has been a substantial modification of features associated with travel, forestry and the expansion of settlements at Abington and Crawford. The addition of Clyde Wind Farm in the nearby Southern Uplands has led to the character of the LCT being altered.

- 7.26.1 NatureScot identifies the key characteristics of Upland Glen – Glasgow & Clyde Valley LCT as follows³⁷:
- *'Glacially enlarged, smoothly contoured, U-shaped valleys cutting into the upland mass of the Southern Upland.*
 - *Transition from moorland vegetation on upper slopes, through rough grassland and pastures on valley floor.*
 - *Topography creates distinctive scenic vistas.*
 - *Limited amounts of broadleaf woodland which tends to be concentrated along the course of rivers, on steeper sheltered slopes and in gullies and side glens.*
 - *Important corridors for communication and settlement.*
 - *Scattering of the remains of later prehistoric settlement and pre-improvement agriculture along the valley sides.*
 - *Significant cumulative impacts of transport infrastructure in the glen of the River Clyde, with large scale wind farm development on the surrounding Southern Upland hills.*
 - *Small scale, domesticated character of glen floors, despite dominant transport infrastructure, which contrasts with the enclosing uplands.'*
- 7.27.1 The following viewpoints are representative of this LCT:
- Viewpoint 6: B797 Road (see **Figures 4.26.1-13, (EIAR Volume 3b)**);
 - Viewpoint 8: Abington (see **Figures 4.28.1-6, (EIAR Volume 3b)**); and
 - Viewpoint 14: B7040/A702 junction at Elvanfoot (see **Figures 4.34.1-8, (EIAR Volume 3b)**).

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

- 7.28.1 Landscape susceptibility for the LCT is assessed as **Medium** due to a combination of the small-scale features, low elevation, and the M74 Motorway and West Coast Railway Line.
- 7.29.1 The Glengonnar Water is partially within the Leadhills and Lowther Hills SLA. The LCT also includes some cultural heritage artefacts and woodland resulting in a **Medium** value.
- 7.30.1 Landscape sensitivity is judged as **Medium** for the River Clyde unit of the LCT..

LANDSCAPE MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

- 7.31.1 The ZTV indicates widespread theoretical visibility within the Glengonnar Water glen due to its location in the north of the Site, extending beyond the boundary. Within the main glen, theoretical visibility would mainly occur on the eastern side where west facing views can be experienced at Abington, Crawford and Elvanfoot. From these locations, Clyde Wind Farm is a prominent feature on adjacent hillsides. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would result in further turbines

appearing to the south and west encroaching into an area currently unaffected, which would increase the intensification of wind development. A gap between the Proposed Development and Clyde Wind Farm by the LCT would be retained so they are read as two separate developments, and the key characteristics of the glen would remain as readable. Magnitude of change is judged as **Medium** up to approximately 6 km to the northeast, long-term and reversible.

- 7.32.1 Beyond Elvanfoot, the glen is orientated in a north to south direction and theoretical visibility would reduce due to screening from intervening landform and magnitude of change would be **Negligible**.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT

- 7.33.1 The effect on the character of LCT 209 Upland Glen – Glasgow and Clyde Valley are judged to be **significant (Moderate)** for a localised area within 5 km to the southwest, thereafter, reducing to **not significant (Negligible)**.

LCT 217 Southern Uplands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley

BASELINE

- 7.34.1 This LCT is located to the south of the Southern Upland Fault Line and encompasses the Lowther Hills; the Site is located entirely within this LCT. The general topography of the LCT is of interlocking rounded hills and small upland glens, characteristic of the wider Southern Uplands.
- 7.35.1 The LCT forms part of the skyline of the overall Southern Uplands observed from the north. Within the Site, there is a perception of remoteness and tranquillity, reducing in proximity to the various roads that criss-cross the landscape, distance from the M74 Motorway and West Coast Railway Line, and settlement.
- 7.36.1 The main landcover on the LCT comprises heather moorland generally managed for grouse shooting, interspersed with areas of bracken and forest plantation, and access tracks used to gain access to upland areas within the Site. On lower slopes, the hillsides are utilised for pasture comprising sheep farming with the remnants of former mining including spoil and features associated with the extraction and transportation of minerals.
- 7.37.1 NatureScot identifies the key characteristics of Southern Uplands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley LCT³⁸ as follows:
- *'Extensive, large-scale upland landscape with strong but smooth relief.*
 - *Glacial carved and smoothed landforms, including u-shaped valleys, hanging valleys and corries.*
 - *Extensive mosaics of heath, with a transition to rough grazing on lower tops or slopes.*
 - *Prominent isolated conifer forests and old stands of Scots pine.*
 - *Largely undeveloped, except for occasional upland farms, shielings and Clyde wind farm.*
 - *Important travel and transmission lines pass through the area are the A74, west coast mainline railway and Scotland-England interconnector pylon line*
 - *Significant archaeological sites, particularly from the Bronze and Iron Age periods.*
 - *Prominent hill ranges in views from many areas.*
 - *Wide ranging panoramic views from the hill summits.'*
- 7.38.1 The following viewpoints are representative of the views obtained from this LCT:
- Viewpoint 4: Hods Hill, Southern Upland Way (see **Figures 4.24.1-6, (EIAR Volume 3b)**);

³⁷ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 209, UPLAND GLEN – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20209%20-%20Upland%20Glen%20-%20Glasgow%20&%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 26th February 2022]

³⁸ NatureScot. (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Type 217, SOUTHERN UPLANDS – GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY Available from: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20217%20-%20Southern%20Uplands%20-%20Glasgow%20&%20Clyde%20Valley%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed: 26th February 2026]

- Viewpoint 6: B797 Road (see **Figures 4.26.1-13, (EIAR Volume 3b)**;
- Viewpoint 9: B797 South of Leadhills near Glengonnar Station (see **Figures 4.29.1-6, (EIAR Volume 3b)**;
- Viewpoint 10: B7040 Shortcleugh (see **Figures 4.30.1-8, (EIAR Volume 3b)**;
- Viewpoint 11: B7040 east of the Hass (see **Figures 4.31.1-6, (EIAR Volume 3b)**;
- Viewpoint 13: Green Lowther (see **Figures 4.33.1-8, (EIAR Volume 3b)**;
- Viewpoint 14: B7040/A702 junction at Elvanfoot (see **Figures 4.34.1-6, (EIAR Volume 3b)**;
- Viewpoint 15: Core Path SL135 (see **Figures 4.35.1-5, (EIAR Volume 3b)**;
- Viewpoint 16: Scottish Hill Track 58 (see **Figures 4.36.1-8, (EIAR Volume 3b)**; and
- Viewpoint 17: Leadhills Football Pitch (see **Figures 4.37.1-10, (EIAR Volume 3b)**.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

- 7.39.1 This LCT is large in scale, open, and includes a variety of man-made features, including Middlemuir Wind Farm, Kennoxhead Phase 2, and Clyde Wind Farm, which lowers landscape susceptibility to wind turbine development to **Low**.
- 7.40.1 The majority of the LCT is designated as the Leadhills and Lowther Hills SLA, which also includes a section of the SUW, and several cultural heritage features. Landscape value is **Medium** overall, with parts of the periphery of the LCT displaying higher value.
- 7.41.1 Overall, sensitivity to landscape change in LCT 217 Southern Uplands – Glasgow and Clyde Valley is assessed as **Medium**.

MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

- 7.42.1 The ZTV indicates widespread theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development to approximately 3 km to the east, 5 km to the south and west, thereafter, reducing on account of screening by intervening landform.
- 7.43.1 Potential effects on the character of the LCT would mainly be associated with views of the proposed turbines, which would have the greatest visibility within the LCT, whilst other areas of infrastructure would be less visible due to a combination of screening by landform and forestry. The size and scale of the change would be medium on account of the large-scale and openness of the landscape and presence of other operational wind farms both within the LCT (Clyde and its Extension) and in neighbouring LCTs. Changes occurring would be limited in comparison to the overall size of the LCT and therefore localised, magnitude of change is judged as **Medium**, thereafter, **Negligible** due to distance and the limited extent of theoretical visibility predicted. Changes would be long-term in nature during the operational phase but would be reversible following the decommissioning phase.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT

- 7.44.1 Overall, the effect on the character of the landscape is judged as localised **significant (Major)** for an area of the LCT approximately within 3 - 5 km surrounding the proposed turbines, thereafter, levels of effect would reduce to **not significant (Negligible)** overall for the LCT.

1.8 Summary of Landscape Effects

- 8.1.1 The findings of the above assessments of landscape effect are set out in Table 4.3.2:

Table 4.3.2: Summary of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptor	Potential Landscape Effect
During Construction and Decommissioning Phases	
Site	Significant (Major)
During Operational Phase	
Site	Significant (Major)
177. Southern Uplands - Dumfries & Galloway: Wanlockhead Unit;	Significant (Moderate) within 5 km to the southwest. Not significant (Negligible) where no theoretical visibility predicted.
207. Upland River Valley - Glasgow & Clyde Valley: Duneaton Water Unit	Significant (Major)
209. Upland Glen - Glasgow & Clyde Valley	Significant (Moderate) within 5 km to the southwest, Not significant (Negligible) where no theoretical visibility predicted.
217 Southern Uplands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley	Significant (Major) – approximately 3-5 km Not significant (Negligible) where no theoretical visibility predicted.

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