Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension

Technical Appendix 6.2: Landscape Character Assessment

Prepared for: **ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited**

November 2025

MVGLA
Landscape Architecture

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
EAC	East Ayrshire Council
EALDP2	East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2
EALWCS	East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA Report	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
HH	Hare Hill Wind Farm (existing)
HHE	Hare Hill Wind Farm Extension (existing)
HHR1	Hare Hill Wind Farm Repowering and Extension (Phase 1 of the proposed Development)
HHR2	Hare Hill Wind Farm Repowering and Extension (Phase 2 of the proposed Development)
km, m, cm mm	Kilometres, metres, centimetres, millimetres
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SLA	Sensitive Landscape Area
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
VP1, VP2…	Viewpoint 1, viewpoint 2 (and subsequent numbering)
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Technical Appendix 6.2: Landscape Character Assessment

Introduction

1.1 This Technical Appendix of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report identifies and assesses effects on landscape character from the proposed Development described in **Chapter 5: Development Description** and summarised in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessmen**t (LVIA). The extent of the study area for the assessment of landscape character was initially set at 45 km in accordance with good practice (Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), 2017). Following a desk-based study, review of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping, and site visits, it was concluded that potential significant effects on landscape character would likely occur up to an area of 15 km from the proposed Development. This is due to the nature of the landform, and density of woodland and forestry within the study area which reduces visibility. Therefore, a study area of 15 km was proposed in the Scoping Report submitted in November 2023 to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and subsequently agreed in the Scoping Opinion response in May 2024 by East Ayrshire Council (EAC).

Landscape Baseline

1.2 The assessment of landscape character has been based on the NatureScot LCTs (2019) due to being the most recent landscape character assessment covering the study area. Where relevant, the EALWCS has been referred to in this assessment.

1.3 The LCT baseline was also informed by the following documents:

- East Ayrshire Adopted Local Development Plan 2 (EALDP2) (EAC, 2024); and
- East Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review (EAC, 2021).
- Landscape Character Assessment, Ayrshire Landscape Evolution and Influences (NatureScot, 2019);
- *East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study* (EALWCS) produced in 2018 (Carol Anderson Landscape Associates, 2018).

1.4 Analysis of ZTV mapping (see **Figure 6.5**) established which of the LCTs within 15 km of the proposed Development would potentially be affected, followed by verification on site and an assessment of each LCT considered.

Operational Effects on Surrounding Landscape Character Types

Scope of Assessment and Reporting

1.5 The assessment considered potential effects on LCTs that are closer to the proposed Development, out to approximately 15 km, considered to be an appropriate range to catch all likely significant effects. Using the ZTV as an indicator of likely visibility, and an initial assessment of potential effects, **Table 1** sets out the overview of potential landscape effects. Some LCTs are selected and discussed further following the initial review:

Table 1: Overview of Potential Effects on LCTs within 15km

LCT	Theoretical Visibility and likelihood of Significant Effects
LCT 66 Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility but from a well-wooded landscape at over 8 km away. Alterations as a result of the proposed Development (phased) on the hills to the south-east are unlikely to have a significant effect on local character. Not considered further.
LCT 69 Lowland River Valleys - Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility but over 12 km away. Alterations as a result of the proposed Development (phased) on the hills to the south-east are unlikely to have a significant effect on local character. Not considered further.
LCT 69 Upland River Valleys - Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility from this LCT which hosts a small part of the Site. **Considered further below**.
LCT 73 Upland Glen - Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility from Glen Afton, **considered further below.**
LCT 74 Upland Basin -Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility from this LCT that lies within 3 km of the Site. Alterations as a result of the proposed Development on the hills to the south-east would increase the presence of windfarms in the hills around the basin, but are unlikely to have a significant effect on local character. Not considered further.
LCT 76 Foothills - Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility at over 8 km away. North Kyle is under construction within this LCT, and changes as a result of the proposed Development (phased) on the hills to the south-east are unlikely to have a significant effect on local character. Not considered further.
LCT 78 Plateau Moorlands - Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility at approximately 3 km away at the closest point. This upland area is located on the north side of Nithsdale with views across to wind farms on the southern hills. Alterations to the proposed Development (phased) are unlikely to alter the local character of this LCT, as views south outwards from the LCT would remain across a valley to hills with wind farms. Not considered further.
LCT 81 Southern Uplands - Ayrshire	Host to part of the proposed Development, **considered further below.**
LCT 82 Southern Uplands with Forest - Ayrshire	Theoretical visibility, but presence of existing wind farms means that alterations to the proposed Development are unlikely to affect local character. Not considered further.
LCT 160 Narrow Wooded Valley – Dumfries & Galloway	No theoretical visibility, not considered further.
LCT 165 Upper Dale – Dumfries & Galloway	Theoretical visibility from much of the Nithsdale valley, **considered further below**.
LCT 166 Upland Glens – Dumfries & Galloway	Limited theoretical visibility, with existing wind farms closer to the LCT than the proposed Development would be. No likelihood of significant effects on local character, not considered further.
LCT 175 Foothills – Dumfries & Galloway	Very limited theoretical visibility at over 10 km away, not considered further.
LCT 177 Southern Uplands – Dumfries & Galloway	Although this LCT extends to within approximately 2 km of the proposed Development and has visibility from high slopes within 10-12 km of the Site, it hosts wind farms, and alterations to a wind farm outside it are unlikely to alter local landscape character. No likelihood of significant effects on local character, not considered further.
LCT 178 Southern Uplands with Forest – Dumfries & Galloway	Host to part of the proposed Development, **considered further below**.
LCT 213 Plateau Moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley	Limited theoretical visibility at over 9 km away, hosts wind farms, significant effects on local character are unlikely, not considered further.

1.6 The LCTs taken forward for detailed assessment are as follows:

- LCT 69 Upland River Valleys – Ayrshire;
- LCT 73 Upland Glen – Ayrshire;
- LCT 74 Upland Basin – Ayrshire;
- LCT 81: Southern Uplands – Ayrshire;
- LCT 165 Upper Dale – Dumfries & Gallway; and
- LCT 178: Southern Uplands with Forest – Dumfries & Galloway.

1.7 It should be noted that the sensitivity of non-host LCTs assessed below is the sensitivity to development outside the LCT rather than within it.

Detailed Landscape Assessment

LCT 69 Upland River Valleys – Ayrshire

1.8 There are two occurrences of this LCT in the study area, a section of Nithsdale between New Cumnock and the Council boundary at Marchburn, and within the Glenmuir and Bellow Water valleys upstream (east) of Cumnock.

1.9 The National Landscape Character Assessment identifies the key characteristics of the LCT as follows:

- '*Varying river valley landform with broad open sections which contrast with steeper valley slopes and narrow, more enclosed valleys.*
- *Varied underlying geology which includes sandstone, millstone, coal measures and a volcanic plug, Loudoun Hill, which forms a distinctive landmark from the Upper Irvine Valley.*
- *Characterised by moorland vegetation, with increasing amounts of improved pasture on lower slopes and valley floors.*
- *Confined landscape scale.*
- *Together with adjacent moorlands, these valleys often provide the focus for opencast coal mining activity.*
- *A focus for industrial settlement in all but the Upper Nithsdale valley, where settlement is scarce, confined to farmsteads on the lower valley slopes.*
- *Often act as a focus for transport routes.*
- *Open views in the broad valley sections, changing to quite enclosed and intimate views within narrow sections.*' (NatureScot, 2019)

1.10 The occurrence of the LCT within Nithsdale has visibility of Hare Hill Windfarm (HH) and Hare Hill Extension Windfarm (HHE), Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar II, and other windfarms on the hills to the south.

1.11 The LCT is included in an Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area (SLA) and is of local value. Given the presence of existing turbines, the susceptibility to additional wind energy development outside the LCT yet on the skyline is judged to be low. The sensitivity of the LCT is judged to be medium overall.

1.12 The following viewpoints (VPs) are representative of the views obtained from this LCT:

- VP4: Merkland; and
- VP3: New Cumnock (outside the LCT).

1.13 **Phase 1:** The replacement of HH with HHR1 would introduce turbines noticeably larger on the skyline of Hare Hill to the south of the Nithsdale area of this LCT. HHE is not visible from VP4 at Merkland, and the contrasts in turbine size would not be noticeable from much of the LCT. The LCT would host the lower section of the access track with direct effects relating to the introduction of an additional track running uphill from the A76. The increase in scale of turbines would increase the presence of turbines as features on the hill skyline to the south, but would not be a new element in the landscape. Overall, it is judged that the increase in turbine size would have a medium magnitude of change to the Nithsdale area of the LCT, and the effect would be **significant (moderate)** for the host area. The area to the east of Cumnock would have **not significant (negligible)** effects.

1.14 **Phase 1 + consented:** The replacement of HH with HHR1 in the context of Lethans, its Extension and Glenmuckloch being present north of the valley would mean that more large turbines would be present in the hills. With Sandy Knowe Extension present, there would be additional turbines on the hill slopes south of the Nithsdale area. The replacement of HH with HHR1 would introduce additional large turbines south of the valley, which may appear larger and closer than those of Sandy Knowe Extension from some parts of the LCT. It is judged that magnitude of change to the character of the landscape would be less than in the previous scenario, but that it would remain medium and the effect would be **significant (moderate)** for the Nithsdale area. The area to the east of Cumnock would have **not significant (negligible)** effects.

1.15 **Phase 2 + consented:** The replacement of HHE with Hare Hill Repowering and Extension Phase 2 HHR2 (assuming that HHR1, existing, construction, and consented windfarms would be present), would introduce a small number of additional turbines onto the southern horizon for Nithsdale unit, and remove the contrasts between different turbine sizes should they be visible. This would have a low magnitude of change, with a **not significant (negligible)** effect on the character of the landscape if HHR1 were present.

1.16 **Phase 2 + in planning:** With consented schemes present, the closest of which are Herds Hill and Rowancraig, there would be character of the LCT as a result of the replacement of HHE with HHR2 would not be altered from the previous scenario. **Not significant (negligible)** effect.

1.17 **Full Proposed Development:** The replacement of HH and HHE with the full proposed Development (as if un-phased) would be similar to Phase 1 but without the contrasts with smaller turbines of HHE (if visible). Overall, the magnitude of change to the character of the LCT as a result of the enlargement of turbines on the southern horizon of the Nithsdale section, is judged to be medium, with a **significant (moderate)** effect on the Nithsdale area, but a **not significant (negligible)** effect and the area to the east of Cumnock.

LCT 73 Upland Glen – Ayrshire

1.18 Glen Afton is the only occurrence of this LCT in the study area. Two other valleys of this LCT are not within the study area.

1.19 NatureScot identify the key characteristics of the LCT as follows:

- '*Distinctive profile comprising steep, often craggy valley slopes, and a rounded valley floor, containing a comparatively small 'misfit' river.*
- *Complex and prominent ridgelines along tops of steep valley sides.*
- *Pasture on the valley floors and lower valley slopes giving way rapidly to rough grassland and heather moorland on higher ground.*
- *Broadleaf woodland is scarce but small to medium scale coniferous forests are found on the valley slopes.*
- *Small scale landscape with some areas of remote and wild character.*
- *Views contained by the steep valley sides'* (NatureScot, 2019)

1.20 The Glen Afton area of this LCT contains the Afton Reservoir and associated water treatment facilities. Some turbines of Afton Wind Farm are within the LCT boundary, and HH, HHE, Pencloe, and Sanquhar II Windfarms are visible on the hills above the valley, on the skyline above the steep valley sides.

1.21 The LCT is included in an Ayrshire SLA and is of local value. Given the presence of existing turbines on the fringes to the valley, the susceptibility to additional wind energy development along the boundary to the LCT yet on the skyline is judged to be medium. The sensitivity of the LCT is judged to be medium overall.

1.22 VP8 Glen Afton is representative of the views obtained from this LCT.

1.23 **Phase 1:** The replacement of HH with HHR1 would introduce a few turbines on the skyline to the north-east of the narrow valley, noticeably larger than those of HH. HHE is not visible from many locations within the valley, and as such the contrasts in turbine size between HHE and HHR1 would only be seen from the western side of the lower (northern) part of the valley. The increase in scale of turbines would increase the presence of turbines as a feature on the hill skyline to the east, and although they would not be new elements in the landscape, their size may diminish the apparent scale of the hills seen north-eastwards from this small scale valley. Overall, it is judged that the increase in turbine size would have a medium magnitude of change to the valley, and the effect would be **significant (moderate)** for the LCT within Glen Afton.

1.24 **Phase 1 + consented:** There would be no consented wind farms close to the valley, although Greenburn may be visible outside to the north-west from some parts of the LCT. The magnitude of change to the character of the landscape would be no different from the previous scenario, medium, and the effect would remain **significant (moderate)**.

1.25 **Phase 2 + consented:** The replacement of HHE with HHR2 (assuming that HHR1, existing, construction, and consented windfarms would be present), would introduce a 2-3 large turbines onto the eastern skyline, in addition to those of HHR1. As HHE is not visible from many sections of the valley, this would be an increase in the number of turbines present on the skyline, and remove the contrasts between different turbine sizes should they be visible. This would have a low magnitude of change, with a **not significant (minor)** effect on the character of the landscape if HHR1 were present.

1.26 **Phase 2 + in planning:** With Euchanhead present around the tip of the glen (south), there would be additional turbines on the hill slopes. However, the alteration to the LCT as a result of the replacement of HHE with HHR2 would not be altered from the previous scenario. **Not significant (negligible)** effect.

1.27 **Full Proposed Development:** The replacement of HH and HHE with the full proposed Development (as if un-phased) would be similar to Phase 1 but without the contrasts with smaller turbines of HHE. Overall, the magnitude of change to the character of the LCT as a result of the enlargement of turbines on the eastern skyline of the glen, is judged to be medium, with a **significant (moderate)** effect on the LCT.

LCT 81: Southern Uplands – Ayrshire

1.28 This LCT extends over the current HH and HHE site over Blackcraig Hill and Hare Hill, and slopes down to the Afton and Nithsdale valleys. It also occurs to the west of the Afton Vally above Littlemark on the slopes below Enoch Hill.

1.29 NatureScot identify the key characteristics of LCT 81: Southern Uplands – Ayrshire as follows:

- '*Steep, smooth slopes rising to rounded summits.*
- *Series of distinctive valleys cut into the uplands created by glacial erosion, with U shaped cross sections, precipitous side slopes, hanging valleys, waterfalls, crags and screes.*
- *Relatively simple landcover.*
- *Heather-flecked grassland on summits.*

- *Scarce semi-natural woodland is, limited to a few more sheltered glens, gullies and clefts.*
- *Occasional forested areas and shelterbelts on lower side slopes leaving the domed peaks exposed.*
- *Absence of modern settlement in these exposed uplands, it being concentrated in river valleys and the larger glens.*
- *Expansive, remote and largely untamed landscape, most parts of the uplands are accessible on foot only.*
- *Long distance and panoramic views encompass the settled Ayrshire lowlands to the north and west and remote Galloway Hills to the south and east*.' (NatureScot, 2019)

1.30 The LCT description also states, "Wind farms have altered the character of the landscape from the Southern Uplands to the east of Ayrshire, south-west of New Cumnock, and to the far south of Ayrshire, to the west of the Duisk Valley". The occurrence of the LCT over Blackcraig Hill hosts HH, HHE and a few turbines of Sanquhar II, and the occurrence west of the Afton Valley hosts some turbines of Enoch Hill (Variation).

1.31 The LCT is included in an Ayrshire SLA and is of local value. Given the presence of existing turbines, the susceptibility to additional wind energy development is judged to be low. The sensitivity of the LCT is judged to be medium overall.

1.32 The following viewpoints are representative of the views obtained from this LCT:

- Figure 6.24 - VP14: Blackcraig Hill; and
- Figure 6.17 - VP7: B741 Knockburnie, at the edge of the LCT.

1.33 **Phase 1:** HHE would remain within the LCT, and the replacement of HH with HHR1 either side of HHE would introduce turbines noticeably larger, and of contrasting size relative to HHE, but similar in size to the turbines of Sanquhar II. The increase in scale of turbines across the LCT would reduce the apparent scale of the hills of the host area this LCT but would not be a new element in the landscape. The presence of wind energy would be increased in and around the LCT, for both occurrences within the study area. Overall, it is judged that the increase in turbine size across parts of the LCT would have a medium magnitude of change to the host area of the LCT, and the effect would be **significant (moderate)** for the host area. The area to the west would have **not significant (minor)** effects.

1.34 **Phase 1 + consented:** The replacement of HH with HHR1 in the context of Sandy Knowe Extension being located partly within the LCT, and Enoch Hill 2 being present west of Glen Afton (although not in the LCT) would have a similar magnitude of change to the character of the landscape to the previous scenario, and it would remain medium, and the effect would be **significant (moderate)** for the host area. The area to the west would have **not significant (minor)** effects.

1.35 **Phase 2 + consented:** The replacement of HHE with HHR2 (assuming that HHR1, existing, construction, and consented windfarms would be present), would remove the contrasts between different turbine sizes, and reduce the magnitude of change to low, with a **not significant (minor)** effect on the host area that is better than the previous scenario (a positive effect).

1.36 **Phase 2 + in planning:** Whilst other windfarms in planning would be present in the wider landscape, in particular Euchanhead, the alteration to the LCT as a result of the replacement of HHE with HHR2 would not be altered from the previous scenario. **Not significant (minor)** effect on the host area, and a positive change relative to Phase 1.

1.37 **Full Proposed Development:** The replacement of HH and HHE with the full proposed Development (as if un-phased) would be similar to Phase 1 but without the contrasts with smaller turbines of HHE (some of the effects of Phase 1 would be partly mitigated by Phase 2). Overall, and given the presence of existing and under construction windfarms within and around the LCT, the magnitude of change to the character of

the LCT is judged to be low, with **not significant (minor)** effects on both the host area and the area to the west of Glen Afton.

LCT 165 Upper Dale – Dumfries & Gallway

1.38 This LCT includes Nithsdale between Council boundary at Marchburn, downstream (eastwards) to Thornhill. It includes the broad valley floor and lower sides.

1.39 NatureScot identify the key characteristics of the LCT as follows:

- '*Wide valleys, enclosed by high peaks and moorland.*
- *Open with long views.*
- *Notable narrower section of Upper Nithsdale between Thornhill and Mennock.*
- *Improved valley pastures becoming rougher up the valley sides.*
- *Medium to large scale enclosures with dry stone dykes.*
- *Riparian woodlands along the main river and up tributary channels.*
- *Medium to large scale forests on the valley sides and extending over horizons from higher ground.*
- *Large scale wind farm development characteristic of some adjacent upland fringes and backdrop skylines.*
- *Mining settlements and remnants of industrial activity such as mine ruins and bings..*' (NatureScot, 2019)

1.40 It is noted that windfarm development is included as a key characteristic. Twentyshilling Hill, Sanquhar, HH, and HHE are located in the hills to the south of the valley; and Sunnyside turbines and several of Sandy Knowe turbines are within the LCT.

1.41 The downstream part of the LCT, south-east of Sanquhar is included in the Thornhill Uplands Regional Scenic Area, the western part is not in a designated area. Given the presence of existing turbines, the susceptibility to additional wind energy development outside the LCT on the hills to the south is judged to be low. The sensitivity of the LCT is judged to be low overall.

1.42 The following viewpoints are representative of the views obtained from this LCT:

- Figure 6.14 - VP4: Merkland;
- Figure 6.15 - VP5: A76 Kirkconnel;
- Figure 6.16 - VP6 Crawick Multiverse Park;
- Figure 6.19 - VP9 Kelloholm Cemetery; and
- Figure 6.22 - VP12 SUW below Conrig Hill.

1.43 **Phase 1:** The replacement of HH with HHR1 would introduce turbines noticeably larger on the skyline of Hare Hill to the west of the Upper Nithsdale area of this LCT, although the turbines would be seen beyond those of Sandy Knowe for most locations. Contrasts in turbine size with HHE would be seen beyond the turbines of Sandy Knowe, which are larger than HH and HHE. The increase in scale of turbines beyond Sandy Knowe would increase the presence of turbines as features on the hills to the south-west of the valley, but would not be a new element in the landscape. Overall, it is judged that the increase in turbine size would have a low magnitude of change to character of the LCT, and the effect would be **not significant (minor)**.

1.44 **Phase 1 + consented:** With Sandy Knowe Extension present adjacent to Sandy Knowe, and Lethans and its Extension to the north, more large turbines would be present in the hills on either side of

the valley LCT at its western end. The replacement of HH with HHR1 would introduce additional large turbines beyond Sandy Knowe and its extension, but the magnitude of change to the character of the landscape would be low and the effect would remain **not significant (minor)**.

1.45 **Phase 2 + consented:** The replacement of HHE with HHR2 (assuming that HHR1, existing, construction, and consented windfarms would be present), would introduce a small number of additional large turbines onto the south-western horizon and remove the contrasts between different turbine sizes. This would have a low magnitude of change, with a **not significant (negligible)** effect.

1.46 **Phase 2 + in planning:** Herds Hill, Rowancraig, Cloud Hill and other windfarms in planning would increase the presence of windfarms on the hills around the valley. Low magnitude of change, **not significant (negligible)** effect.

1.47 **Full Proposed Development:** The replacement of HH and HHE with the full proposed Development (as if un-phased) would be similar to Phase 1 but without the contrasts with smaller turbines of HHE remaining amongst HHER. Overall, the magnitude of change to the character of the LCT as a result of the enlargement of some turbines on the western hills beyond Sandy Knowe and close to Sanquhar II, is judged to be low, with a **not significant (minor)** effect on the LCT.

LCT 178: Southern Uplands with Forest – Dumfries & Galloway

1.48 This LCT extends over the western part of the HH and HHE site, from Sandy Knowe southwards to Benbrack and either side of the Water of Ken. This area includes a few of the HH turbines, part of Sandy Knowe Windfarm, part of Sanquhar and Sanquhar II Windfarms, and Wether Hill Windfarm. The LCT also occurs to the west over Windy Standard to the Glenkens (an area which contains Windy Standard, Afton, Benbrack Windfarms); and north of Nithsdale above Kirkconnel (Sunnyside is at the boundary of this LCT area).

1.49 NatureScot identify the key characteristics of LCT 178: Southern Uplands with Forest – Dumfries & Galloway as follows:

- '*Large, smooth dome-shaped hills with large scale dark green forests on slopes and over lower summits.*
- *Predominantly simple, gently rolling landform.*
- *Some areas of more complex and smaller-scale landscapes, with steep slopes enclosing heads of valleys and/or where uplands remain open.*
- *Changing landscapes with large scale forestry operations and wind farm development.*
- *Forested areas dominated by Sitka Spruce, interspersed with mixed conifers and broadleaf planting, and undergoing felling and replanting in large coupes.*
- *Wind farms are a key characteristic in some areas.*
- *Expansive scale.*' (NatureScot, 2019)

1.50 It is noted that windfarm development is included as a key characteristic.

1.51 Figure 6.20 - VP10 Benbrack is representative of the views obtained from this LCT.

1.52 **Phase 1:** The replacement of HH with HHR1 would introduce large turbines into the LCT, to the west of Sanquhar II turbines, and in the context of Sandy Knowe and Sanquhar. The turbines would be noticeably larger than those of HHE (outside the LCT), but of similar size to Sanquhar II. The increase in scale of turbines outside the LCT would have a low magnitude of change to site and the host area of the LCT within approximately 2km, but the effect would be **not significant (minor)**. Effects further away and for other occurrences of the LCT would be **not significant (negligible)**.

1.53 **Phase 1 + consented:** In this scenario Sandy Knowe Extension, Manquhill, Cornharrow (variation) and Shepherds Rig would be within the LCT. The replacement of HH with HHR1 would introduce additional large turbines at the edge of the LCT. It is judged that magnitude of change to the character of the landscape would be less than in the previous scenario, and the effect would be **not significant (negligible)** for the host area.

1.54 **Phase 2 + consented:** The replacement of HHE with HHR2 (assuming that HHR1, existing, construction, and consented windfarms would be present), would remove the contrasts between different turbine sizes around the LCT, and reduce the magnitude of change, although it would remain low, with a **not significant (negligible)** effect.

1.55 **Phase 2 + in planning:** With Euchanhead, Lorg and Appin Windfarms present in the LCT, and others in the wider landscape, the alteration to the LCT as a result of the replacement of HHE with HER2 would not be altered from the previous scenario. **Not significant (negligible)** effect.

1.56 **Full Proposed Development:** The replacement of HH and HHE with the full proposed Development (as if un-phased) would be similar to Phase 1 but without marked contrasts in turbine sizes. Overall, and given the presence of existing windfarms within and around the LCT, the magnitude of change to the character of the LCT is judged to be low, with **not significant (minor)** effects on the host area of the LCT.

Summary of Landscape Effects

1.57 **Table 2** below sets out the findings of the assessment of landscape effects on LCTs. It identifies significant effects. Where judgements are not listed, they are not found to be significant (see assessments above). Changes found to be positive relative to the scenario before are noted.

Table 2: Summary of Significant Landscape Effects in Detailed Assessment

LCT	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
LCT 69 Upland River Valleys - Ayrshire	Significant (moderate) for Nithsdale area	Significant (moderate) for Nithsdale area	-	-	Significant (moderate) for Nithsdale area
LCT 73 Upland Glen - Ayrshire	Significant (moderate)	Significant (moderate)	-	-	Significant (moderate)
LCT 81 Southern Uplands - Ayrshire	Significant (moderate) for host area	Significant (moderate) for host area	positive	positive	-
LCT 165 Upper Dale – Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	-	-
LCT 178 Southern Uplands with Forest – Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	-	-

References

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