

# SHERIDRIM RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

## APPENDIX 7.4

### Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Prepared for:

ScottishPower Renewables UK Ltd



## APPENDIX 7.4: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

The sensitivity of the host landscape character types/area is assessed below.

Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular form of change likely to result from the proposed Development. Therefore, the assessment text focussed on the sensitivity of the landscape

receptor near the Site to the proposed Development. In the main this has been taken from the Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (2017) and SNH Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland digital map based LCA (2019) (*quotes shown in italics*) as well as from local sources and site assessment.

Host Landscape: AGC6. Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (A&BC 2017) / LCT 39 Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Assessment	Judgement
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
<b>Designated scenic quality</b>	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No national or local landscape designations within this landscape	Community
<b>Landscape condition/ quality</b>	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	Whilst there is extensive forestry within this landscape type, there is also extensive blanket bog	Regional
<b>Rarity and/or representativeness</b>	Commonplace elements, features, or the landscape itself. Not a good example of the landscape type.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Very representative landscape.	Any blanket bog in good condition is a valued landscape element but some has been drained.	Regional
<b>Conservation Interests</b>	Low presence of wildlife, earth, archaeology or historical interests	High presence of wildlife, earth, archaeology or historical interests	Wildlife designations in proximity of the Site and some elements of historic interest on Site.	Regional
<b>Cultural associations</b>	No specific cultural associations.	Strong cultural associations which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	There are some historic shielings, buildings and cultural associations which contribute to natural beauty.	Regional
<b>Amenity and recreation</b>	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	The Kintyre Way runs on the eastern boundary of the Site. However the remaining parts of the Site remain inaccessible at present due to challenging ground conditions.	Regional
<b>Wildness/ Sense of Remoteness / Tranquility</b>	Busy evidence of human activity	Remote, peaceful or sense and tranquility, solitude and emptiness	<i>'Wildland character is generally not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on the majority of this landscape.'</i>	Community
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Regional</b>
<b>Susceptibility</b>				
<b>Scale</b>	Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	Turbine size of the proposed Development has been kept between 135m -150m to better accord with the scale of the receiving landscape and improve the relationship with the <i>'relief of the northern part of this upland plateau'</i> , compared to the 'very large' typology of up to 200m considered within the A&BC Capacity Study. Intervisibility is predominantly contained within the upland plateau and therefore there would be limited relationship with the smaller scale <i>'smaller hills narrow glens on the fringes of this landscape'</i> .	Medium
<b>Landform</b>	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	The Site is an area of upland plateau away from the higher, more well-defined hills to the north or on the southern part of the Kintyre peninsula. The Site also avoids the <i>'small knolly hills found on the outer fringes of this landscape type'</i> .	Medium
<b>Openness/enclosure</b>	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The Site is generally open and exposed with some more sheltered landscapes towards Clachan.	Medium/Low
<b>Land cover</b>	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	<i>'Extensive, large-scale mosaic of open moorland and forestry'</i> <i>'Remaining areas are open moorland with extensive marginal upland pasture and blanket bog'</i>	Medium/Low
<b>Complexity and patterns</b>	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	The <i>'simple land cover found within the upland interior'</i> accords well with the wind turbines	Medium/Low

Host Landscape: AGC6. Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (A&BC 2017) / LCT 39 Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Assessment	Judgement
<b>Built Environment</b>	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<i>'Settlement is sparse.'</i> <i>'There is a new power line from Cour to Inverary, with 46 metre high towers'</i> which extends near to the Site. There is the presence of other windfarms within the interior of the upland plateau.	Medium
<b>Views intervisibility</b>	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<i>'...restricted visibility of the interior uplands from roads and settlement along the Kintyre coastal edge reduces sensitivity.'</i> However there is intervisibility with the Rocky Mosaic in South Knapdale and some of the neighbouring islands of Gigha's Coastal Parallel Ridges and Arran's Raised Beach Coast and Cliffs, Coastal Headlands and Rugged Uplands.	High-Medium
<b>Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points</b>	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	This landscape forms part of the backdrop to highly scenic views from Arran/Kilbrannan Sound and Gigha / West Loch Tarbert, however this landscape is not a focal point of views from these areas. <i>'Highly scenic views to Arran and Jura from the B8001 would be sensitive to intrusion by very large wind turbines.'</i>	High/medium
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity</b>				<b>Medium</b>