

## Technical Appendix 6.3 Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the landscape character types/areas which may receive significant landscape effects are 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. Assessment text relates to sensitivity of the landscape receptor as a whole, to the proposed development, with additional comments regarding the Site where relevant. In the main this has been taken from NatureScot's National Landscape Character Assessment; quotes are shown in italics. The criteria below are based on relevant guidance (see Technical Appendix 6.1 to the LVIA).

### LCT 117 Upland Fringe Valley (includes Site)

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	Mostly undesignated within the study area, apart from the northern tip which lies within the Berwickshire Coast SLA	Community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	A very small part of the northern part of this LCT lies within a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). The wider LCA has no particular recognised value for natural heritage.	Community
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	There are scheduled monuments and listed buildings within the LCT, mostly around Grantshouse to the southeast of the Application Site beyond the LVIA study area.	Community
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	Generally good condition, though as noted in the LCT description for this part of the LCT, infrastructure and forestry are key influences in the LCT near the Application Site.	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	The Penmansheil memorial located to the east of the A1 is the only notable cultural association in this LCT in the vicinity of the Application Site.	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	This LCA forms part of the transition between the Lammermuir Hills and the coast. It forms a fairly typical example of coastline within this area of Scotland and north-east England.	Community
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience..	As shown by Figure 6.6, there is a notable concentration of access routes including the Southern Upland Way within this LCT.	National/ regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particularly visual.	No particular scenic qualities are noted by the character description or on site.	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The landscape is farmed and the presence of infrastructure and forestry prevent a sense of wildness within the LCT.	Community
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure or important relationship with designated landscape.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure or strong relationship with a national landscape designation.	No particular landscape function.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the Proposed Development may be in proportion	Small scale intimate landscapes	<i>"The landscape is typically medium in scale",</i>	Medium
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	<i>"a narrow to medium-scale valley enclosed by rolling farmlands."</i> The steep river bluff slopes and side valleys are more sensitive to solar development.	High/medium
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The valley bottom and forested areas feel enclosed by the upper valley slopes at the east and west edges of the LCT are more open and expansive.	Medium
Land cover	Simple or regular landcover Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns.	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover. Complex or irregular patterns.	<i>"The predominant landcover in this landscape type is permanent pasture ... Tree cover ... most commonly consists of narrow broadleaf woodland strips on the river steepened bluffs along the valley edges and in side valleys. Along the flat valley floor, there are fewer trees, mainly confined to scattered broadleaf clumps along the river banks, occasional shelterbelts and policy woodlands."</i> The wooded river bluff slopes and valley bottom are more sensitive to solar development.	Medium
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Forestry and <i>"the wind farm are prominent. A trunk road, railway and power lines follow the valley floor and have strong visual impact in places"</i>	Low
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<i>"Views are of moderate range, with intermediate horizons formed by woodland strips or by the contours of side-valleys."</i>	Medium
Forms settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	Low lying landscape which forms the visual setting to major transport routes including the A1 and East Coast Main Line Railway.	High
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium/low

## LCA 100 Plateau Farmland – Borders

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	Mostly undesignated.	Community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	No specific ecological value is identified within the study area in this LCA.	Community
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	There is a Scheduled Monument hill fort nearby to the north of the site and some listed buildings within the LCSA but beyond the study area to the south.	Regional/ community
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The simple open landscape means that pylons and turbines nearby and within this landscape are widely visible, but otherwise the area retains its rural character.	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	No specific cultural associations noted.	Community
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	<i>"The large scale, exposed nature of this landscape and sparse settlement give it an unusual, striking quality. It is a relatively uniform, simple landscape of little complexity or diversity."</i>	Regional/ community
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience.	The Southern Upland Way passes through this LCT along with some interconnecting rights of way and a promoted route as shown by Figure 6.6.	National/ regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particularly visual.	As noted above, the simplicity of the landscape is <i>"striking"</i> .	Regional/ community
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The landscape is not wild given views of large scale farming, pylons and turbines, but has some tranquillity due to the lack of settlements and roads.	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure or important relationship with designated landscape.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure or strong relationship with a national landscape designation.	No particular landscape function.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Community
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the Proposed Development may be in proportion	Small scale intimate landscapes	<i>"Large scale smooth landform characterized by gentle, sweeping slopes."</i>	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes		Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	<i>"An open, exposed landscape..."</i>	Low
Land cover	Simple or regular landcover. Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns.	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover. Complex or irregular patterns.	<i>"a simple, uniform character", "Land use is predominantly arable farming with grazing more prevalent in steeper and higher areas. Tree cover consists mainly of small to medium sized ...coniferous plantations and shelterbelts. Broadleaf trees are present in a few scattered shelterbelts, hedgerow lines and woodlands."</i>	Medium/low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<i>"...widely dispersed farms and small villages ...Power lines are widely visible. ... Quixwood Moor wind farm forms a point feature which is widely visible within the LCT".</i>	Medium/low
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<i>"Views are mainly open and distant to surrounding upland and lowland landscape types."</i>	High
Form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	Transitional landscape between the coast and the Lammermuirs - does not form a backdrop, setting or focal point.	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium/low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Low