



Appendix 5.2: Landscape Character Types within the 20km Study Area



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Appendix 5.2

Landscape Character Areas within the 20 km study area

Introduction

5.2 Introduction

5.2.1 Using accepted, systematic methods of landscape character assessment, the surrounding landscape has been subdivided into different landscape character types, each with a distinctive character based upon local patterns of geology, land form, land use, cultural and ecological features. These provide baseline information which can be used to guide landscape change and provide a baseline against which to make judgements on the likely effects of the Proposed Development upon landscape character.

5.2.2 Within the 20 km study area, the relevant landscape character assessment is the NatureScot web-based dataset, the 2019 Landscape Character Type map and associated Landscape Character Type Descriptions.

5.2.3 This dataset provides an assessment of the landscape character of the area, and considers the likely pressures and opportunities for change in the landscape. The Landscape Character Types (LCTs) which fall within the 20 km radius study area are illustrated in Figure 5.1.3 and listed below:

- 349. Major Uplands
- 350. Peatland and Moorland
- 351. Undulating Moorland with Lochs
- 352. Inland Valleys
- 353. Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast
- 354. Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds
- 355. Coastal Edge

Landscape Character Areas within 20km

5.2.4 In undertaking the preliminary assessment and review of baseline material against the visibility mapping of the Proposed Development, and through subsequent fieldwork, it is considered that beyond a 20km radius, the Proposed Development would be seen as a relatively distant element in the landscape and that there would be only a limited influence on the characteristics, defining features and/ or special qualities of the LCTs. Although there may be some effects on landscape character beyond a 20km radius from the Site, these would not be significant and, in this regard, LCTs beyond 20km from the application Site have not been assessed further. LCTs within a 20km radius of the Proposed Development have been reviewed in detail, and provide an appropriate basis to describe the landscape character of the area surrounding the Proposed Development.

Landscape Sensitivity

5.2.5 Shetland Islands Council commissioned the following document which provides a sensitivity study for each of the Landscape Character Areas in Shetland: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands, LUC 2009.

5.2.6 The approach taken in this study draws on the current thinking on techniques and criteria for judging landscape sensitivity and capacity, as documented in Topic Paper 6 by Scottish Natural Heritage and The Countryside Agency (2002). The following extract provides a summary of the criteria used in the report for assessing landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Criteria		
Characteristic	Aspects indicating lower sensitivity to wind farm development	Aspects indicating higher sensitivity to wind farm development
LANDSCAPE		
Landform and scale: patterns, complexity and consistency	Large scale landform Simple Featureless Absence of strong topographical variety	Small scale landform Distinctive and complex Human scale indicators Presence of strong topographical variety
Land cover: patterns, complexity and consistency	Simple Predictable Smooth, regular and convex or flat and uniform	Complex Unpredictable Rugged and irregular
Settlement and man-made influence	Concentrated settlement pattern Presence of contemporary structures eg utility, infrastructure or industrial elements	Dispersed settlement pattern Absence of modern development, presence of small scale, historic or vernacular settlement
Movement	Prominent movement, busy	No evident movement, still
VISUAL		
Skylines	Simple predictable skylines Presence of existing vertical features	Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes	Limited views into and out of landscape Neighbouring landscapes of low sensitivity Weak connections, self contained area and views Simple large scale backdrops	Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops
Key views, vistas and landmark features	Obscured landmarks, views towards/ from landmarks, absence of vistas Indistinctive or industrial settings	Prominent key landmarks, views towards/ from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints
Receptors	Unpopulated or few receptors Inaccessible	More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/ or visitor attraction
Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/ from)	Limited association between landscape(s) and/or features	Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features
Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)	Close to visible or audible signs of human activity and development	Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil

5.2.7 The statements on overall sensitivity to wind energy development for each of the landscape character areas set out in this document have been adopted in the baseline assessment.

Landscape Character Type Descriptions

- 5.2.8 This section describes Landscape Character Types that coincide with the 20 km radius study area. The descriptions and the assessment of sensitivity of the Landscape Character Types form the baseline to the assessment of effects on Landscape Character.
- 5.2.9 The following six LCTs within the detailed study area would potentially be affected to some degree by the Proposed Development, as identified through analysis of the ZTV plans:
- 349 Major Uplands
 - 350 peatland and Moorland
 - 351 Undulating Moorland with Lochs
 - 352 Inland Valleys
 - 353 Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast
 - 354 Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds
- 5.2.10 The application Site is situated within the ‘Major Uplands’ Landscape Character Type.
- 5.2.11 A description of each of the five LCTs which will potentially be affected, explaining the main features, key characteristics and sensitivity of the landscape to development of the type proposed is provided in the baseline assessment tables below. The locations of the LCTs within the detailed 20km radius study area is shown on Figures 5.2.7 and 5.2.8, overlaid onto the Blade Tip and Hub Height ZTV mapping respectively.

Table 1 Landscape Character Type: 349, Major Uplands

Key Characteristics
<p>The Shetland Islands are generally low-lying, such that distinct areas of high land are more prominent. The landcover is dominated by peatland and heather moorland peaty mires.</p> <p>LCAs within the 20 km study area with intervisibility with the Proposed Development include:</p> <p>A1 - South Mainland Spine</p> <p>A2 - East and West Kames</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rounded hills, occurring either in series connected by high level rounded ridges along a linear band, or as isolated single hills or hill groups. ▪ Often steep slopes at the coast, or cliff edges with dramatic natural coastal landforms. ▪ Mainly simple landcover of peat bog and heather moorland grading to rough grassland on some lower slopes, contrasting with the ordered fields of adjoining lowlands and the intricate coastline. ▪ Hill grazing and low-key peat cutting. ▪ Mainly uninhabited and often difficult to access on foot or by road, with roads mainly absent on higher land. ▪ In some areas tracks ascend to hillside or hilltop features such as masts, wind turbines, isolated farms and peat cuttings. ▪ Exposed high land with panoramic views, forming landmark features which themselves are often visible for miles.

- Relatively expansive, although scale is difficult to discern and reduced by the presence of manmade structures.
- A sense of remoteness and wild character in places.

Landscape Character Description

Landform	<p>Major Uplands consist of the highest land in Shetland which forms the main physical structure of the islands. They occur in long bands aligned with the main north-south fault lines. Here the metamorphic bedrock has been sliced into north-south strips by fault movements. Along these tracts a series of rounded hills, connected by high land or rounded ridges, rises up to 208 metres above sea level, above surrounding lower land. On Shetland Mainland at East and West Kames the linear landform and alignment of hills is particularly pronounced. Here the series of rounded, slightly irregular hills coalesce into large scale whaleback ridges which define the north-south orientated valleys. In south Shetland Mainland the hills broaden into a wider band. The simple drainage pattern of these hills is generally of small burns forming on low ridge saddles, draining in a direction perpendicular to the line of hills.</p> <p>The outliers of this type have been formed by different processes. At some distance from main fault lines, they have no strong linear alignment, tending to have a rounded footprint which gives rise to a radial drainage pattern of small burn networks and occasional lochans. The hills on Bressay are well-defined or sometimes sprawling hills on Old Red Sandstone.</p>
Landcover	<p>The main superficial deposits of the hills are boulder clay and other glacial deposits, and peat. The poor, peaty and often waterlogged soils give rise to landcover dominated by heather moorland and bog with occasional lochans. Rough grassland tends to occur on lower slopes in some areas. On the sandstones of Bressay, boulder clay and other glacial drifts give rise to better agricultural soils.</p> <p>Unimproved, unenclosed rough hill grazing is the main land-use, along with peat cutting. The lower margins of this type include inbye crofting land.</p>
Settlement	<p>This Landscape Character Type is mainly uninhabited. The often-uneven ground of tussocky grass, bogs and peat hags is a barrier to foot access. Small crofting settlements sometimes occur on the edges of this type at low levels. Roads tend to skirt the hill land, following more amendable routes in adjoining valleys and farmed areas, crossing the type only where there is no alternative to passing over highland. Several masts and aerals are sited on these hills as the high land provides ideal locations with line of sight to many settlements and the islands' road network.</p> <p>Evidence of previous occupation includes cairns and abandoned military sites of prehistoric and historic dates. There is evidence of prehistoric settlement and land use in these areas.</p>

<p>Perception</p>	<p>The uniform texture and colour across most of these landscapes is apparent when viewed from a distance. The scattering of road and track scars, peat cuttings and quarries introduce detailed features and breaks up the expanse of moorland, reducing the sense of naturalness. Where many of these features occur together in one area, this results in a haphazard and jumbled appearance which undermines the simplicity of the landcover and landform. Hill tracks and roads usually present a functional appearance - they can be seen directly to connect with the point of destination and their reason for being built.</p> <p>These upland landscapes are exposed to the full force of Atlantic weather. They are relatively expansive, with sweeping slopes and hills, the sense of scale being enhanced by the contrast with adjoining farmed landscapes. The peatland, lochans and erosion scars provide a subtle interplay of texture, with muted colours. This contrasts with the more rich and varied colours and textures of ordered, green pastures of the lowlands and the intricate, coastline of voes and sounds and islands. The apparent scale of the landscape is sometimes difficult to discern due to the moorland vegetation with little diversity in colour or texture. Occasional manmade structures introduce an element of scale, and often make the hills appear smaller and less extensive.</p> <p>Wild character is reduced in the vicinity of manmade structures, particularly where these occur in clusters as they are often very prominent in the open moorland landscape.</p>
<p>Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development</p>	<p>The landscape is large scale, with a generally simple skyline. Northern parts of this landscape provide scope for smaller developments in association with industrial and developed areas on the outskirts of Lerwick, although care should be taken to avoid visual clutter.</p> <p>A1 - South Mainland Spine</p> <p>The northern sector of sub unit A1 has been a focus for wind farm development and sensitivity here is low. The southern extent of the South Mainland spine has a higher sensitivity to wind farm development.</p> <p>A2 - East and West Kames</p> <p>This landscape is large scale, a range of man-made features including the large scale Viking Wind Farm and frequent movement, lend a lower degree of sensitivity.</p>

Table 2 Landscape Character Type: 350, Peatland and Moorland

Key Characteristics	
<p>The Peatland and Moorland Landscape Character Type on Shetland consist of lower-lying undulating ground dominated by low moorland vegetation, usually forming a backdrop to farmed and settled coasts. Small patches, often associated with small headlands, are scattered along the east side of the Shetland Mainland, and tend to be interspersed with the adjoining small scale farmed landscapes.</p> <p>LCA's within the 20 km study area with intervisibility with the Proposed Development include:</p> <p>B2 - Rounded Moorland Hills</p> <p>B4 - South Mainland Coastal Moorland</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broadly undulating moorlands with occasional small hills, some areas with smaller scale undulations. ▪ Expanses of smooth or hummocky heather moorland and boggy heather grassland. ▪ Smooth maritime moorland and grasslands on Papa Stour and Eshaness. ▪ Stony, rough textured heathland communities Unst and Fetlar. ▪ Rough, mainly unenclosed hill grazing. ▪ Mainly uninhabited, with few roads and man-made structures. ▪ Many visible archaeological relics indicating stages in historic land use. ▪ Prominent, linear stone dykes in places. ▪ Simple composition forms a contrasting backdrop to farmed lowlands, often marked by an abrupt boundary at the hill dyke. ▪ High land provides vantage points for views. ▪ Wild character in larger, remote areas. 	
Landscape Character Description	
Landform	Peatland and Moorland occurs on a variety of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous bedrock. The landform is mainly of low relief with gentle slopes, with local variation in the scale of undulations and surface texture.
Landcover	Landcover is mainly heather moorland and grassland on peaty soils, varying in species composition according to the underlying substrate and local conditions. The small areas of this type on Shetland Mainland tend to be interspersed with small scale farmed landscapes. Land use consists mainly of rough grazing on hill land.
Settlement	These areas are mainly uninhabited. Roads and tracks are largely absent, and where present they are routed purposely through the landscape to connect coastal settlements which are separated by the moorland.

	Other manmade structures are limited to electricity poles and occasional communications masts and beacons. Several wind turbines are present, with more proposed, adding further built structures in this landscape.
Perception	<p>The low-relief landform and unvarying landcover in many areas of this type results in a relatively simple composition. In this subtle landscape of mainly muted colours, interest is provided by the small scale diversity in texture provided by standing water and exposed peat and rock.</p> <p>The small areas of Peatland and Moorland on the south Shetland Mainland provide a visual link between farmland and the Major Uplands. The moorlands are open and exposed, often forming the highest ground in the area and providing a vantage point for views.</p>
Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development	<p>The following sensitivities are defined in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands, 2009.</p> <p>B2 - Rounded Moorland Hills</p> <p><i>This landscape is of a smaller scale with undulating landform and occasional man-made features. Its smooth, convex land cover and presence of existing vertical features lend this landscape a medium degree of sensitivity.</i></p> <p>B4 - South Mainland Coastal Moorland</p> <p><i>This landscape is of relatively small scale with a regular and convex landform. The presence of man-made features and nearby settlements lends a medium sensitivity in association with concentrated settlements.</i></p>

Table 3 Landscape Character Type: 351, Undulating Moorland with Lochs

Key Characteristics
<p>The Undulating Moorland with Lochs Landscape Character Type consists of low-lying undulating ground with rocky outcrops and many small burns and lochans on Shetland.</p> <p>LCAs within the 20 km study area with intervisibility with the Proposed Development include:</p> <p>C3 - Lunna Ness and Dragon Ness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evenly undulating moorland with small hillocks, knolls, depressions, rocky outcrops, many lochans and small burns. ▪ Lochans tend to be evenly spaced and of similar size with indented edges. ▪ Mainly rough unenclosed grazing with some small scale peat cutting. ▪ Settlement is mainly absent and there are few man-made structures. ▪ Few roads, those present are mainly minor and follow the undulations in landform. ▪ Frequent archaeological sites, usually near the coast.

- Larger scale undulations give more of an open, upland character and smaller scale undulations are more enclosed and intimate at low levels.
- Remoter areas have wild character.

Landscape Character Description

Landform	<p>The low elevation Undulating Moorland with Lochs Landscape Character Type occurs mainly between 5 and 100 metres above sea level. The usually fine-grained, evenly undulating relief has many rounded knolls and hummocks with rocky outcrops. In places small hills occasionally rise up to 175 metres above sea level.</p> <p>The sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks lack the strong parallel faulting patterns of central Shetland, resulting in a general lack of over-riding direction in the undulations. These landscapes show evidence of glacial activity in the roches moutonnées and plucked ‘knock and lochan’ landscapes.</p> <p>A complex pattern of smaller burns, with no dominant water course, drains into the evenly-spaced depressions, creating many similar-sized lochans with complex, indented edges. The evenly spaced undulations and similar sized lochans and knolls introduce elements of repetition into the composition, forming a distinctive pattern across large areas.</p> <p>This geology is overlain with peat with small areas of boulder clay. Mainly peaty soils and some areas of blanket peat support heather moorland with rough grassland.</p>
Landcover	<p>The main land use is un-enclosed rough grazing. Small patches of domestic peat cutting are located on the edge of the type, close to the adjoining settlements.</p>
Settlement	<p>The landform, drainage and soils of this Landscape Character Type have limited settlement to a few locations on the margins and roads skirt these areas where possible. Some roads cross this type where this is no alternative route, and there are occasional branches to coastal inlets or settlements in adjoining types. Minor roads and tracks tend to weave between knolls and lochans, the sinuous curves relating to the scale of the landform. Upgraded roads have been straightened by cutting and embanking the landform to take a more direct route. Man-made structures are mainly absent across the interior of these landscapes, consisting of occasional fence lines, tracks and drainage channels. Electricity transmission poles usually run parallel to roads.</p>
Perception	<p>Colours in this landscape are muted and variations in texture are created through the interplay of vegetation, rocky outcrops and water. Overall, the complex, organic patterns of groundcover vegetation, knolls, lochs and coastline create an engaging, complex and apparently natural landscape mosaic which contrasts with the adjoining, ordered farmed lowlands.</p>

<p>Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development</p>	<p>The following sensitivities are defined in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands, 2009.</p> <p>Overall Sensitivity: Medium.</p> <p>This landscape is of a small scale with scattered settlement, lending a moderate degree of sensitivity.</p>
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Table 4 Landscape Character Type: 352, Inland Valleys

<p>Key Characteristics</p>	
<p>The Inland Valleys Landscape Character Type on Shetland consists of low lying, narrow channels cutting through Major Uplands, and often aligned with fault lines. They are dominated by crofting, rough grazing, moorland and mires, and extend to the coast as Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds. The largest area of this Landscape Character Type, at Petta Dale and Weisdale, forms a broad north–south band in the centre of Shetland Mainland.</p> <p>LCA's within the 20 km study area with intervisibility with the Proposed Development include:</p> <p>D1 - Farmed and Settled Inland Valleys: Tingwall and Weisdale</p> <p>D2 - Crofting and Grazing Inland Valleys: Cuckron</p> <p>D4 - Peatland and Moorland Inland Valleys</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long, narrow channels cut through major uplands, mainly located inland and often associated with the erosion of fault lines. ▪ Relatively level valley floors and steep mid-slopes rising to concave upper slopes. ▪ Fertile soils in lower, accessible areas with enclosed fields, contrasting with upper moorland slopes, the boundary usually abruptly delineated at the inbye/outbye boundary. ▪ Extensive areas of peat deposits and unimproved moorland in central Shetland Mainland valleys. ▪ Settled in accessible, lower areas with farms and crofts and connected by roads following the line of the valley. ▪ Abundant archaeological remains visible in the low ground cover. ▪ Enclosed views along the valley and up to skylines, occasionally opening to the sea and adjoining coastal farmland. ▪ Inland and enclosed larger valleys with few sea views. 	
<p>Landscape Character Description</p>	
<p>Landform</p>	<p>Inland Valleys on Shetland consist of low-lying, narrow channels running between major uplands. The landform is mainly the result of erosion by ancient water courses. The long central Shetland Mainland valleys of Pettadale and Weisdale are aligned with major fault lines. These valleys correspond to thick vertical bands of metamorphosed limestone which were etched away by water over millions of years.</p>

	<p>The valley and enclosing landforms are usually large scale and well defined, however some shorter valleys are more weakly defined by smaller scale landforms. The slopes tend to be concave falling to convex and are relatively steep at the midpoint, particularly if within a major fault line. Valley floors are relatively flat or broadly undulating, and rise gently to merge with side slopes.</p> <p>Drainage patterns consist of small tributary burns descending perpendicular to the side slopes into a central burn running the length of the valley, occasionally collecting in linear lochs and small lochans. Burns are often straightened in agricultural land.</p>
Landcover	<p>The valleys contain boulder clay drifts and alluvium, and peat deposits occur on slopes. The low-lying, sheltered areas with fertile soils support a landcover of mainly improved grassland, with rough grassland and heather moorland on higher ground.</p> <p>The northern parts of Shetland Mainland valleys are dominated by extensive peat deposits and moorland vegetation. These areas are often associated with patches of standing water, eroded and exposed peat, peat slides, small inland lochs and wetlands. Here, the areas which have been improved to grassland contrast sharply with the surrounding moorland vegetation.</p> <p>The land use is mainly farming and clusters of crofts located in lower, sheltered and accessible areas. Domestic peat cutting occurs at lower levels near settlements. Hill land of rough grazing tends to dominate the larger areas of this Landscape Character Type.</p>
Settlement	<p>The drier, lower land is settled with occasional farms and crofting settlements. Fields are mainly geometric pastures of different sizes which extend up the slopes of the valley. Individual fields are often difficult to discern due to the wide spread use of stock proof fencing and the equal grazing levels across adjoining pastures. The inbye boundary is clearly defined by changes in grazing pressure and is sometimes bounded by a stone dyke. The valley landforms provide suitable corridors and saddles across north-south hill lines for the islands' road network. Many roads are minor and follow the subtleties of the landform along the break of slope, whereas improved major roads are cut and banked, with wide verges and are either straight or follow longer curves.</p> <p>Electricity poles tend to follow the line of roads or are scattered across high ground taking a direct route to settlements. Occasional masts occur on the upper slopes and are prominent on the skyline. Viking Wind Farm will dominate Petta Dale and the Valley of Kegord.</p>
Perception	<p>There is often great diversity in colour and texture provided by the combination of improved land, heathland, rough grassland and water bodies. The muted colours and simple landcover of moorland contrast with the ordered landscape of crofting, emphasising the differences in intensity of land use between inbye and outbye land.</p>

	<p>These valleys are unusual in Shetland, being a mainly inland landscape with few views of the sea. Views are contained by the adjoining uplands and channelled along the valley, or drawn up to nearby skylines. In a few areas, views extend to adjoining coastal farmland and to the sea.</p>
<p>Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development</p>	<p>The following sensitivities are defined in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands, 2009.</p> <p>D1 - Farmed and Settled Inland Valleys: Tingwall And Weisdale</p> <p><i>This is a relatively large scale concave landscape with views contained within and along the valleys. The enclosed character, dispersed settlement and absence of modern development lend a higher degree of sensitivity</i></p> <p>D2 - Crofting and Grazing Inland Valleys: Cuckron</p> <p><i>These landscapes are characterised by their concave landform and the extensive Loch of Strom within the Cuckron Valley. The contained views, limited settlement and absence of modern development lend a higher degree of sensitivity.</i></p> <p>D4 - Peatland and Moorland Inland Valleys</p> <p>This landscape is of a medium scale with a concave landform and simple predictable skylines, formed by the distinctive West and East Kames and Mid Kame. The prominent structures and movement of Viking Wind Farm lend this area a low sensitivity.</p>

Table 5 Landscape Character Type: 353, Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast

Key Characteristics
<p>Much of Shetland's farmland lies in a narrow strip between the uplands and the coast. The Farmed and Settled Lowland and Coast – Shetland Landscape Character Type is located in exposed parts of this strip. These landscapes are dominated by rough grassland and pasture resulting from long established crofting.</p> <p>LCA's within the 20 km study area with intervisibility with the Proposed Development include:</p> <p>E2 - South Mainland Scattered Settlement and Grazing Lands</p> <p>E3 - Crofting and Grazing Lands</p> <p>E4 - West Mainland Coastal Crofting</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mainly narrow tracts of low lying, gently sloping or undulating landform adjoining the sea, with some areas of flat coastal plain and occasional small rounded hillocks. ▪ Natural and varied coastal edge with indented, low coastal cliffs and occasional beaches and bays. ▪ A variable patchwork of landcover mainly consisting of rough grassland, mixed with pastures, arable fields, heather and machair, occasional wetlands, beaches and dunes. ▪ Predominantly farmed and settled with a high proportion of traditional croft land.

- A varying pattern of fields, crofts and farms according to location, landform, productivity, agricultural practices and the character of settlement and farm buildings.
- Many archaeological sites and historic buildings providing visible evidence of the history of settlement since prehistoric times.
- The field and settlement patterns from human intervention in some traditional crofting areas, enhanced by the contrasting coastal and upland setting.
- Open, windswept landscapes with little shelter and constant views of the coastline, and across voes and sounds to other land.

Landscape Character Description

Landform

The Farmed and Settled Lowland and Coast - Shetland Landscape Character Type occurs as many mainly narrow tracts of productive land, usually adjacent to the coast, generally consisting of low lying land, usually under 50 metres above sea level, with a gently sloping or undulating landform, and some areas of flat coastal plain. Occasional very small, rounded hillocks rise to around 90 metres above sea level. The coastal edge consists mainly of low, deeply indented, rocky cliffs and headlands, with occasional sandy or pebbly bays.

Variations in this Landscape Character Type reflect subtle differences in landform, landcover and land use. The productivity, management and agricultural practices undertaken, the character and pattern of settlement, the artefacts of past and present agricultural practices all strongly influence character.

Subtle landform variations interact with a number of other factors to influence character. Larger areas of flat land are often associated with the good calcareous soils, greener pastures and larger more intensively farmed fields with an open character, close to broader bays. The presence of occasional low hills tends to be linked to heather moorland, and this higher ground provides a measure of enclosure and allows for elevated views. The shape of the coastal edge may be abrupt, rocky and exposed, as along the indented low cliffs, or gently sloping flat and relatively sheltered next to inlets and beaches.

Landcover

These landscapes occur on a variety of soils, derived from blown sand, peat, and glacial drift materials. The sloping land assists with surface water drainage, and areas of peat bog are relatively uncommon except in lowland basins. The nature of the vegetative cover varies according to the relative productivity of the land, its underlying geology and soils, and the management practices undertaken. Trees and woodlands are absent from these exposed landscapes. Rough pasture is the dominant landcover overall, which is mixed with varying amounts of arable land, improved grassland, maritime grassland, and occasionally machair in more productive areas, and heather moorland on less productive land, usually associated with higher elevations. At the coast natural features include sand dunes, slacks and marshland. This mix of vegetation cover occurs as an integrated

	<p>patchwork within each tract. Differences in the proportion and balance of vegetation types between tracts lead to variation of character.</p>
Settlement	<p>These areas have generally been farmed and settled for a long period and their character is a result of successive settlement and land use in the same area. Agriculture is the main land use consisting predominantly of grazing and small areas of arable land, mainly under a crofting system. Crofted lands vary from broad areas of well-managed traditional fields of good quality grazing on fertile ground, to more exposed, narrow and marginal areas of abandoned fields and degraded heather moorland.</p> <p>These areas are some of the most settled rural landscapes in Shetland. The balance between settlement and farmland, and the style and pattern of development, vary. Overall, settlement patterns are mainly sparsely scattered individual crofts and dwellings, crofting townships and occasional small nucleated settlements. In more intensively farmed areas small, distinct, nucleated settlements occur on elevated ground, avoiding the best growing land, and include larger farms with associated large agricultural buildings. In areas along the south east coast of the mainland the traditional agricultural landuse patterns are fragmented and dominated by new housing and suburban style development.</p>
Perception	<p>The overall perception of these landscapes varies according to several factors such as the level of land management and productivity, settlement pattern and new development, and the location and setting. The pattern of human intervention in some traditional crofting areas reflects the strong relationship between landform, settlement and landuse, and is enhanced by the contrasting coastal and upland setting. This contrasts with areas characterised by derelict crofts, abandoned fields, and degraded moorland, and other areas of intensive use with larger scale field sizes and large scale farm buildings. Elsewhere the style and pattern of new development does not reflect the character of the landscape, and sometimes leaves fields as left over space between scattered developments.</p> <p>The variety and richness of colour and texture varies according to the level of productivity and land management. Areas of arable land and improved or maritime grassland can be particularly rich in colour contrasting strongly with areas of rough pasture or moorland and natural coastlines. Similarly, texture can vary greatly from the coarse nature of rough pasture to close cropped improved grassland or the fine texture and seasonal flowers of machair.</p>
Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development	<p>The following sensitivities are defined in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands, 2009.</p> <p>E2 - South Mainland Scattered Settlement and Grazing Lands</p> <p><i>This is a medium scale farming and crofting landscape with an undulating landform. The presence of infrastructure and modern development in association with roads lends a moderate sensitivity.</i></p> <p>E3 - Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands</p>

	<p><i>This landscape is of a small scale with occasional settlements maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. There is a strong association with the coastal fringe and significant historic interest, lending a higher degree of sensitivity.</i></p> <p>E4 - West Mainland Coastal Crofting</p> <p><i>This landscape is of a small scale with occasional settlements maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. There is a strong association with the coastal fringe and significant historic interest, lending a higher degree of sensitivity.</i></p>
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Table 6 Landscape Character Type: 354, Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds

Key Characteristics
<p>The Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds Landscape Character Type occurs in Shetland around the enclosed coastal waters which are distributed around most parts of the islands except for the south of Shetland Mainland. They are dominated by pasture and rough grassland resulting from long established farming. The type includes Shetland’s main towns and many harbour settlements.</p> <p>LCA’s within the 20 km study area with intervisibility with the Proposed Development include:</p> <p>F1 - Developed Areas</p> <p>F2 - Nucleated Settlements</p> <p>F3 – Farmed Land</p> <p>F5 - Scattered Settlement / Crofting and Grazing Lands</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narrow, low lying coastal strips of gently sloping or undulating land around enclosed waters. ▪ Complex, indented coastline which provides shelter. ▪ Mainly agricultural land use on improved and unimproved pastures with heathland, wetland and wet pastures which add variety. ▪ Area near Walls has ‘knock and lochan’ topography with exposed, glaciated rock. ▪ Unusual grassland and heathland on base-rich soils on Unst and Fetlar. ▪ Scarce broadleaf tree cover found in very small remnant woodland patches and recent plantations. ▪ Mostly traditional crofting in linear or scattered patterns, with some estates. ▪ Larger settlements around harbours with historic built heritage. ▪ Mainly inland, minor road network with branches to beaches and harbours. ▪ Abundant archaeology across all periods of human settlement. ▪ Rural areas provide a contrasting backdrop and setting for settlements. ▪ Rural areas and settlements contrast with the surrounding, large scale hill land.

- Views are ever-changing due to the complex coastline and interlocking landforms.
- Remote settlements have a strong sense of isolation and tranquillity.

Landscape Character Description

Landform	<p>Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds are found around Shetland's enclosed and sheltered coastal waters, occurring as many, mainly narrow, coastal bands of productive land and some larger nucleated settlements. These areas are usually less than 150 metres above sea level. The low, complex coastal edge consists of many inlets with rocky headlands, low cliffs and small sandy or shingle bays. Long, narrow voes with relatively straight coastlines are found where the main north-south fault lines meet the sea along the central axis of Shetland Mainland.</p> <p>The landform is often gently sloping towards the sea or gently undulating, with few areas of open water. Small burns usually fall directly to the coast. Flatter, wetter land is often found at the head of voes.</p>
Landcover	<p>Landcover varies according to the relative productivity of the land, the underlying geology, management practices undertaken and the degree of shelter afforded by location. The species mixes of heath and grassland cover vary according to soil types, exposure to salt spray and the degree of management, and subtly alters their colour and texture. The dominant forms of landcover are improved pastures, which highlight the location of better soils, and rough grassland. This grazed land is interspersed with patches of wetland and flush vegetation. There are some areas of arable land, and small numbers of wind-blown trees and shrubs beside some of the more sheltered voes and sounds, usually planted close to buildings.</p>
Settlement	<p>As a result of the favourable conditions, there is a long history of successive periods of settlement and agricultural land use. Consequently, the character, pattern and extent of settlement and farming in these areas are the major factors influencing landscape character.</p> <p>Outside of main villages and towns, settlement patterns are related to agricultural land use, which has been practised over many centuries.</p> <p>Settlement usually consists of scattered crofts and dwellings in sheltered locations, associated with an ordered landscape of improved and unimproved grazing land. Fields are usually geometric and divided by fencing, although this varies.</p> <p>This Landscape Character Type notably includes most major settlements and areas of development in Shetland. The largest settlements tend to be focused around sheltered harbours and include Lerwick and Scalloway. These locations provide safe and sheltered harbours, locations for fish farming and a gateway to the open sea. Many of the larger, more accessible settlements have expanded beyond their historic core with modern housing development and commercial buildings.</p>

	<p>The road network links settlements and often travels inland to avoid the indentations of the coastline, branching off to harbours and beaches. Most roads are minor and follow the slope or undulations of the land.</p>
<p>Perception</p>	<p>The overall perception of these landscapes varies according to their relative productivity and the nature and degree of settlement or development. Generally, they tend to be richly varied and highly modified landscapes, when considered in the wider context of Shetland. In rural areas the mosaic of improved and unimproved grasslands and wetlands creates a subtle variation of colour and texture. The small scale landscapes of traditional crofting patterns and clusters of buildings around harbours are in sharp contrast to the adjoining uninhabited expanses of rough grazing, heather moorland and natural coastal scenery. Human activity in farmed landscapes and the busy nature of settlements, particularly harbours and ferry terminals, emphasises these differences.</p>
<p>Overall sensitivity to the Proposed Development</p>	<p>The following sensitivities are defined in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands, 2009.</p> <p>F1 - Developed Areas</p> <p><i>This landscape is generally of a large developed scale. Settlement and modern development are densely clustered with vertical structures and prominent movement on roads lending a lower sensitivity.</i></p> <p>F2 - Nucleated Settlements</p> <p><i>These landscapes are of a small scale, with concentrated settlements and a strong association with the sea, as a result of the sheltered situation at voe heads, lending a higher degree of sensitivity.</i></p> <p>F3 – Farmed Land</p> <p><i>This is a medium scale farming landscape with a simple land form and frequent contemporary structures. Concentrated settlement and prominent movement lend a medium sensitivity.</i></p> <p>F5 - Scattered Settlement / Crofting and Grazing Lands</p> <p><i>This landscape is characterised by a small scale crofting landscape, strongly associated with the sheltered voes and neighbouring uplands. The limited modern development and significant historic interest in this landscape, lend a higher degree of sensitivity.</i></p>