

Technical Appendix 4.2: Landscape Character Types Sensitivity Assessment

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This technical appendix provides both baseline information and a detailed assessment of sensitivity of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the 30 km Study Area. Given intervening distance and the pattern of theoretical visibility shown on **Figures 4.3** to **4.6** a 30 km Study Area is considered proportionate.
- 1.1.2 **Figure 4.7a: Landscape Character Types (EIAR Volume 3a)** illustrates the location and extent of the LCTs (from NatureScot’s Landscape Character Assessment¹) and **Figure 4.7b: Landscape Character Types and Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 3a)** shows the LCTs overlaid by the Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).
- 1.1.3 All the LCTs in the SLVIA Study Area are listed in **Table 4.2.1** below, ordered nearest to furthest from the Site. These LCTs have been broken down into Subtypes, where there is some variation in characteristics. The Subtypes are based on those described in the *Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands*² (hereafter referred to as ‘the Shetland Islands Council (SIC) Study’).
- 1.1.4 Key characteristics of the LCTs and LCT Subtypes are described in **Tables 4.2.2 to 4.2.8**. **Tables 4.2.2** to **Table 4.2.8** provide a sensitivity rating of each LCT against which the likely effects of the Proposed Development can be judged when combined with the assessment of magnitude of change. Where there is a notable difference in sensitivity in individual LCT units or between units of the same LCT this is stated in the evaluation. The descriptions are based on the key characteristics presented in NatureScot’s Landscape Character Assessment and the SIC Study. The sensitivity of each of these LCTs is appraised in accordance with current guidance^{3, 4, 5}.
- 1.1.5 The assessment of effects on LCT is described in **Chapter 4: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)**.
- 1.1.6 The Proposed Development is a renewable energy development comprised of up to eight wind turbines, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure adjacent to Sullom Voe Oil Terminal (SVT) and the Shetland Gas Plant in Shetland, Scotland. The assessment is based on the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**.

Tale 4.2.1: Landscape Character Types in the Study Area		
Landscape Character Type	Distance from Site	Sensitivity
LCT 350 Peatland and Moorland (host LCT)		Medium
B2 Rounded Moorland Hills (host subtype)	0 km	n/a
B1 Yell Peatland	5.3 km	n/a
LCT 354 Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds (0.3 km from Site)		Medium
F5 Scattered Settlements/Crofting and Grazing Land	0.3 km	n/a
F1 Developed Area	0.8 km	n/a
F2 Nucleated Settlements	2.4 km	n/a
LCT 356 Small Uninhabited Islands (1.6 km from Site)		High/Medium
No Subtypes	1.6 km	n/a
LCT 349 Major Uplands (3.2 km from Site)		High/Medium
A2 East and West Kames	3.2 km	n/a
A3 Ronas Hill	8.4 km	n/a
LCT 351 Undulating Moorland with Lochs (6.6 km from Site)		High/Medium
C1 West Mainland and Northmavine: Muckle Roe and Mangaster/Nibon Area	6.6 km	n/a
C3 Lunna Ness and Dragon Ness	9.0 km	n/a
C2 Uyea, Braewick, Tingon and North Roe	9.6 km	n/a
LCT 355 Coastal Edges (7.3 km from Site)		High/Medium
No Subtypes	7.3 km	n/a
LCT 353 Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast (7.5 km from Site)		High/Medium
E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands	7.5 km	n/a

1 NatureScot, (n.d.), Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions, [online], Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions> [Accessed 13 March 2026]

2 Shetland Islands Council, (March 2009), Landscape Sensitivity Study Final Report, [online], Available at: <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/downloads/file/1865/shetland-islands-council-landscape-sensitivity-study-final-report> [Accessed 13 March 2026].

3 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition.

4 Landscape Institute, (August 2024), Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3)

5 Landscape Institute, (2021), Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations

1.2 LCT Descriptions and Sensitivity Summary

LCT 350 – Peatland and Moorland (host LCT)

- 1.2.1

This is the host LCT, with some areas overlapping with the Shetland National Scenic Area (NSA), the Lunning and Lunna Ness Local Landscape Area (LLA), and the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA. The overall key characteristics of this LCT are described by NatureScot as:

 - *"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; and*
 - *Wild character in larger, remote areas."*
- 1.2.2

There are two Subtypes of LCT 350 identified in the SIC Study. These are listed below with key characteristics as described in the SIC Study.

LCT Subtype B1 - Yell Peatland
- 1.2.3

These units are in the interior of Yell, with the closest 5.3 km northeast of the Site. Sections of the northwestern end overlap with the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA. Key characteristics are:

 - *"Extensive undulating landscape;*
 - *Peatland and heather moorland; and*
 - *Natural and cultural heritage interest."*

LCT Subtype B2 - Rounded Moorland Hills
- 1.2.4

The LCT Subtype coincides with rounded moorland on Fetlar, Northmavine and parts of the Central and West Mainland, this is the host Subtype, with other units located predominantly to the northwest, southwest and east of the Site. A small section around the west Mainland overlaps with the Shetland NSA Eshaness Area, whilst a small section along the eastern Mainland overlaps with Lunning and Lunna Ness LLA. Key characteristics are:

 - *"Small scale undulating landscape;*
 - *Peatland and heather moorland; and*
 - *Cultural and natural heritage interest."*
- 1.2.5

The assessment of value and susceptibility of the LCT Subtypes and overall sensitivity of LCT 350 is provided in **Table 4.2.2**. The overall Sensitivity of the LCT is considered Medium, with the B2 Subtype, situated on the Isle of Yell, relatively more sensitive due to its relatively higher perceptual qualities, including its sense of remoteness, wilderness, and the scenic value. Areas of the B1 Subtype have a lower susceptibility due to their proximity to existing industrial and human influences.

LCT 354 – Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds

- 1.2.6

This LCT comprises of five Subtypes, with three assessed in detail in the SLVIA. Some sections overlap with Shetland NSA, the Lunning and Lunna Ness LLA, Ronas Hill LLA, and the Nibon and Mangaster LLA. The overall key characteristics of this LCT are described by NatureScot as:

 - *"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; and*
- *Remote settlements have a strong sense of isolation and tranquillity.”*

1.2.7 The three Subtypes of LCT 354 of most relevance to this SLVIA are listed below with key characteristics as described in the SIC Study.

LCT Subtype - F1 Developed Areas

1.2.8 Located 800 m west of the Site, this LCT Subtype fringes the northeastern coastal edge of the Sullom Voe. Key characteristics are:

- *“Sheltered coastal location;*
- *Large scale clustered development;*
- *Harbour facilities;*
- *Contrast between developed areas and surrounding landscape; and*
- *Cultural heritage interest.”*

LCT Subtype F2 - Nucleated Settlements

1.2.9 The closest unit is 2.7 km to the southeast at Mossbank. The Subtype is typically associated with voe heads and sheltered coastal areas across the islands. Key characteristics are:

- *“Sheltered coastal location;*
- *Nucleated development;*
- *Harbour facilities; and*
- *Cultural heritage interest.”*

LCT Subtype F5 - Scattered Settlements/Crofting and Grazing Land

1.2.10 Located 300 m east of the Site and comprising of scattered settlements extending along the sheltered voes and sounds of the archipelago. Some areas overlap with the Lunna Ness and Lunning LLA and the Mangaster and Nibon LLA. Key characteristics are:

- *“Sheltered coastal location;*
- *Managed crofting landscape;*
- *Scattered settlements; and*
- *Cultural heritage interest.”*

1.2.11 The assessment of value and susceptibility of the LCT Subtypes and overall sensitivity of LCT 354 is described in **Table 4.2.3**. The overall Sensitivity of the LCT is considered Low to Medium.

LCT 356 – Small Uninhabited Islands

1.2.12 This LCT coincides with eight separate small islands within 20 km of the Site. Seven of these islands are located within 5 km of the Site with one island situated approximately 12 km to the southwest as shown on **Figure 4.7a: Landscape Character Types (EIAR Volume 3a)**. There are no Subtypes of this LCT. The overall key characteristics of this LCT are described by NatureScot as:

- *“Small, low-lying, often oval-shaped islands;*
- *Smooth domed or flat topography, occasionally with ridge lines formed by underlying rock strata;*
- *Coastline varied, edged with occasional low cliffs, wave cut platforms of sandstone and flagstone, or ridges in sandy or shingle beaches;*
- *Low-lying vegetation of short-grazed and rough grassland with occasional heather cover, grazed by sheep on some islands;*
- *Lack of habitation and roads on most islands;*
- *Abundant archaeological sites, visible in the short ground cover;*

- *Occasional lighthouses, beacons, ruined crofts, fishing stations and wartime defence structures;*
- *Islands are frequently the focus of views from inhabited islands and the Shetland Mainland;*
- *Sense of remoteness, wild character and history; and*
- *Sights and sounds from wildlife, including seals and a variety of moorland and sea birds enhance the landscape experience.”*

1.2.13 The assessment of value and susceptibility and sensitivity of the LCT is provided below in **Table 4.2.4**. The overall Sensitivity of the LCT is considered High/Medium.

LCT 349 – Major Uplands

1.2.14 This LCT has some areas overlapping with Ronas Hill LLA. The overall key characteristics of this LCT are described by NatureScot as:

- *“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;*
- *Exposed, frost shattered rock and boulder fields in Ronas Hill;*
- *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; and*
- *Relatively expansive, although scale is difficult to discern and reduced by the presence of manmade structures.”*

1.2.15 The three Subtypes of LCT 349 of most relevance to this SLVIA. These are listed below with key characteristics as described in the SIC Study.

LCT Subtype A2 - East and West Kames

1.2.16 This Subtype is located 3.2 km southeast of the Site and extends along the ridges of East and West Kame, comprising of areas of high ground.

- *“Large scale upland landscape;*
- *Peatland and heather moorland; and*
- *Forms a backdrop to adjoining landscapes.”*

LCT Subtype A3 - Ronas Hill

1.2.17 This Subtype is located 8.4 km northwest of the Site and covers the extent of Ronas Hill and areas of strong topographical diversity in North Roe. This area overlaps with the southern part of Ronas Hill LLA.

- *“Large scale upland landscape;*
- *Heather moorland and rough grassland slopes; and*
- *Forms a focal point in views from surrounding landscapes.”*

1.2.18 The assessment of value and susceptibility of the LCT Subtypes and overall sensitivity of LCT 349 is described in **Table 4.2.5**. The overall Sensitivity of the LCT is considered High/Medium.

LCT 351 - Undulating Moorland and Lochs

1.2.19 This LCT overlaps with parts of Shetland NSA, Lunning and Lunna Ness LLA, Ronas Hill LLA, and Nibon and Mangaster LLA. The overall key characteristics of this LCT are described by NatureScot as:

- *“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; and*
- *Remoter areas have wild character.”*

1.2.20 Three Subtypes of LCT 351 are of most relevance to this SLVIA. These are listed below with key characteristics as described in the SIC Study.

LCT Subtype C1 - West Mainland and Northmavine Muckle Roe and Mangaster/Nibon Area

1.2.21 The Subtype is located 6.6 km southwest of the Site and fringes the coastal edge of St Magnus Bay. Some areas overlap with Shetland NSA and Nibon and Mangaster LLA. Key characteristics are:

- *“Strongly undulating landform;*
- *Frequent lochs;*
- *Heather moorland;*
- *Coastal location; and*
- *Cultural and natural heritage interest.”*

LCT Subtype C2 - Uyea, Braewick, Tingon and North Roe

1.2.22 The Subtype is located 9.6 km northwest of the Site in the northwestern extremity of Mainland. Some areas overlap with Shetland NSA and Ronas Hill LLA. Key characteristics are:

- *“Large scale, rounded landscape;*
- *Frequent lochs; and*
- *Peatland.”*

LCT Subtype C3 - Lunna Ness and Dragon Ness

1.2.23 The Subtype is located 9.0 km southeast of the Site within one of the eastern extremities of Shetland Mainland and encompassing parts of Whalsay. Some areas overlap with Lunna Ness and Lunning LLA. Key characteristics are:

- *“Small scale rounded landscape; and*
- *Areas of agricultural improvement.”*

1.2.24 The assessment of value and susceptibility of the LCT Subtypes and overall sensitivity of LCT 351 is described in **Table 4.2.6**. The overall Sensitivity of the LCT is considered High/Medium.

LCT 355 – Coastal Edge

1.2.25 This LCT is located 7.3 km northwest of the Site and partly overlaps with Shetland NSA, Ronas Hill LLA and West Sandwick to Gloop Holm LLA. There are no Subtypes of this LCT. The overall key characteristics of this LCT are described by NatureScot as:

- *“Narrow, indented coastal edge of rocky headlands, inlets and promontories on exposed parts of the coast;*
- *Mainly high to moderately high cliffs with frequent features of coastal erosion including stacks, arches, blowholes, caves and storm beaches;*
- *Diversity of colour and rock forms derived from the wide variety of bedrock;*
- *Short, colourful swards of maritime heath and grasslands on cliff tops and some sheltered cliffs, with bare, scoured rock in exposed locations;*
- *Undeveloped and uninhabited, and mostly inaccessible by road;*
- *Modern man-made structures limited to a few lighthouses and a radar station;*
- *Many prehistoric and wartime archaeological relics revealed in short grassy landcover;*
- *Diverse and dramatic coastal scenery with a variety of coastal views; and*
- *Remote, exposed, open and highly natural landscape with wild character.”*

1.2.26 The assessment of value and susceptibility and overall sensitivity of LCT 355 is described in **Table 4.2.7**. The overall Sensitivity of the LCT is considered High/Medium.

LCT 353 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast

1.2.27 This LCT overlaps with small sections of Lunna Ness and Lunning LLA and West Sandwick and Gloop Holm LLA. The overall key characteristics of this LCT are described by NatureScot as:

- *“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; and*
- *Open, windswept landscapes with little shelter and constant views of the coastline, and across voes and sounds to other land.”*

1.2.28 There is one Subtype of LCT 353 of relevance to this SLVIA and its key characteristics are described below.

LCT Subtype E3 - Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands

1.2.29 The Subtype is located 7.5 km southwest of the Site and extends along the coastal edge of parts of Unst, Fetlar and Yell, Whalsay and Out Skerries. Key characteristics are:

- *“Coastal lowlands landscape;*
- *Grazing lands;*
- *Historic settlement pattern; and*
- *Cultural heritage interest.”*

1.2.30 The assessment of value and susceptibility of the LCT Subtype and overall sensitivity of LCT 355 is described in **Table 4.2.8**. The overall Sensitivity of the LCT is considered High/Medium.

1.3 LCT Value, Susceptibility, and Sensitivity Tables

Table 4.2.2: LCT 350 Peatland and Moorland (Subtype B1 – Yell Peatland, Subtype B2 – Rounded Moorland Hills)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Natural Heritage	B1: Moorlands and rare areas of blanket peat provide significant natural vegetation (SSSI) and wildlife habitat. B2: This landscape has localised areas of natural heritage interest including SSSIs, SACs and SPAs.	High/Medium
Cultural Heritage	Historic settlement remains are frequent in the B1 Yell Peatland landscape and very frequent in settled coastal areas. Within B2 Rounded Moorland Hills, numerous historic remains including various settlement remains and cairns.	High
Landscape Condition	In B1 vast areas uninhabited but with some hill grazing. In B2 relative absence of settlement in this landscape, but still noticeable man-made interventions including roads, industrial activities, and telecommunication masts. Some hill grazing.	Medium
Distinctiveness	B1: Expansive moorland with rare areas of blanket peat adds distinctiveness. B2: Simple landform of peatland or moorland vegetation but limited distinct features.	Medium/Low
Recreational	B1 and B2: Recreational users including hill walkers and tourists along the roads.	Medium
Perceptual (Scenic)	B1: Expansive views are afforded from this landscape across undulating peatlands and towards lower lying coastal areas, Yell Sound, Unst and Fetlar, particularly along the high land which provide open and long-distance vantage points. However, scenic value reduces to the south, where views would capture busy vessel activity, ferries and industrial activities. B2: Expansive views are afforded from this landscape across undulating peatlands and towards lower lying coastal areas, particularly along the high land which provide open and long-distance vantage points. However, in vicinity of the Site scenic qualities reduce with the existing Industrial activities along the coastal edge including SVT, the Toft-Ulsta Ferry terminal and the commercial piers near Graven.	Medium
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	B1: The presence of expansive undeveloped areas given this landscape a sense of remoteness, this reduces in proximity to the A968 and settlements on the coastal fringe. B2: The proximity to settled areas reduces the sense of remoteness. In proximity to the Site wildness qualities are directly and indirectly affected by existing industrial activities.	B1: High/Medium B2: Medium/Low
Overall evaluation of Value		Medium

Evaluation of Landscape Susceptibility		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Landscape Form and Scale	B1: Extensive landscape with a gently rounded and undulating, large scale landform. Only the LCT units in close proximity to the Site have the potential to be affected by the proposed turbines, with the perceived scale of the proposed turbines likely reducing in units located further from the Site. B2: This LCT is of a smaller scale, undulating landform including rounded hills (up to 173 m AOD) and smooth hummocky land. The host unit and those within in the immediate vicinity have the greatest potential to be affected by the Proposed Development.	B1: Low B2: Medium
Existing Land Use and Context	B1: The interior of this landscape is unsettled with a remote, wild character. Limited man-made interventions include roads (the A968 and B9081), electricity transmission lines and peat cutting, with the main roads bringing localised movement within the LCT. The Proposed Development would potentially be viewed from this LCT in context of existing commercial and industrial activities, including the Toft-Ulsta Ferry Terminal and SVT. The southern end of Yell Sound is frequented by other vessels and the Proposed Development could potentially tie into the existing industrial and marine landuse context to a degree. B2: The landscape shows a relative absence of settlement; however there are existing industrial activities and infrastructure both within and immediately adjacent to the LCT Subtype. These include roads, telecommunication masts, quarries, the Toft-Ulsta Ferry Terminal, piers near Graven, and SVT, the latter being directly adjacent to the host LCT unit. Consequently, the Proposed Development could not be perceived as a completely new element of human influence. It would be a different type of land use but potentially not wholly out of context with adjacent land uses.	B1: High/Medium B2: Medium/Low
Landcover Complexity/Simplicity	B1 and B2: Simple land cover comprises of peatland and heather moorland vegetation. This Proposed Development only has the potential to influence this characteristic in units adjacent to the Site.	Low
Nature of Visual Enclosure/Openness of Views	B1 and B2: Expansive views are offered across undulating peatlands and towards the lower-lying coastal areas. According to the ZTV, besides the host unit, the Proposed Development would only be visible from the higher lands within this LCT and would be particularly patchy within the B2 units. The visible extents of the Proposed Development would become smaller with increasing distance, occupying only a small portion of the overall panorama. Key views oriented across Yell Sound, as well as north and east towards Unst and Fetlar from the B1 units, and similarly, views from the B2 units towards the open sea, would be directed away from the Proposed Development, reducing its influence.	High/Medium
Landmark features or focal points	"This landscape forms a simple, large scale backdrop to lower lying areas of settlement."	Medium/Low
Overall evaluation of susceptibility		Medium/Low (host unit) Medium generally

Table 4.2.2: LCT 350 Peatland and Moorland (Subtype B1 – Yell Peatland, Subtype B2 – Rounded Moorland Hills)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Overall Sensitivity Appraisal		
Medium/Low sensitivity (Host unit). Medium sensitivity generally.		

Table 4.2.3: LCT 354 Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds (Subtype F1 – Developed area, Subtype F2 – Nucleated Settlements, Subtype F5 – Scattered Settlements etc)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Natural Heritage	F1 and F2: F1 has SAC and nearby SSSI ecological designation giving natural heritage value. F2 also has ecologically valued areas, including SPAs, SSSIs and SACs. F5: Some units have SAC and nearby SSSI ecological designation giving natural heritage value.	High/Medium
Cultural Heritage	F1: Limited historical features. F2 and F5: The F2 areas are historically settled and are of cultural heritage interest, the F5 areas are similar with historical buildings and associated landscape features.	F1: Low F2 and F5: High
Landscape Condition	F1: High degree of development. F2 and F5: Land cover within F2 consists mainly of residential development, surrounded by rough grassland and heather moorland. F5 has managed landcover consisting of improved and unimproved grazing land.	F1: Low F2 and F5: Medium
Distinctiveness	F1: Industrial, little evidence of previous landscape character. F2: Strong association with the coastal edge. F3: Strong association with sheltered and distinct voes.	F1: Low F2 and F5: High/Medium
Recreational	F1: Limited recreational opportunities, a small section of the National Cycle Network runs immediately adjacent to the LCT border. F2 and F5: Core paths, recreational fishing and other recreational water-based activities.	F1: Low F2 and F5: Medium
Perceptual (Scenic)	F1 and F2: In F1, expansive views are afforded to and from nearby settled voes and sounds and adjacent uplands, but often capture developed areas. Whilst in areas of F2, views are more enclosed and orientated towards the immediate coastal areas and surrounding landscapes, where harbours and nucleated settlements are within the views. F5: Views are afforded along distinct voes, to upland landscapes, coastal features and islands.	F1 and F2: Medium/Low F5: High/Medium
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	F1: The high degree of development in these landscapes is such that they do not give rise to a notable sense of remoteness. F2 and F5: The presence of modern development in F2 reduces the sense of remoteness, as well as vessels and ferries. Similarly in F5, settlements and farming practices reduce the sense of remoteness, as well as vessels and ferries.	F1: Low F2 and F5: Medium
Overall evaluation of Value		Low to Medium

Evaluation of Landscape Susceptibility		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Landscape Form and Scale	F1: Large scale landscape with built up areas along sheltered voes. F2: These are relatively small scale, gently sloping coastal landscapes with sheltered coastal waters and small areas of concentrated settlement. The Proposed Development has the potential to affect perceived scale of the landscape. F5: Small scale character of irregular, gently sloping coastal landscape, fringing frequent voes and sounds. The Proposed Development has the potential to affect perceived scale of the landscape.	F1: Low F2 and F5: High
Existing Land Use and Context	F1: Land is already heavily modified with reclaimed coastline, SVT, and the commercial pier next to Graven. The Proposed Development would not be perceived as a wholly out of context with existing development but would introduce a new type of development to the locality. F2: Settlements are typically small and nucleated. Man-made influences include roads, fish farms and harbour facilities with ancillary developments are already in the context including the busy Toft-Ulsta Ferry Service. The Proposed Development would not be perceived as a wholly out of context with existing development but would introduce a new type of development at a larger scale to these existing features. F5: These areas are typified by a scattered pattern of settlement. Man-made influences include roads and electricity transmission lines, vessels moving through the Yell Sound, and the busy Toft-Ulsta Ferry Service. The Proposed Development would not be perceived as a wholly out of context with existing development but would introduce a new type of development at a larger scale to these existing features.	F1: Low F2 and F5: Medium
Landcover Complexity/Simplicity	F1: Landcover is dominated by modern development and there is little evidence of the previous vegetative cover. F2: Landcover consists mainly of residential development, surrounded by rough grassland and heather moorland. F5: Landcover consists of a mixture of improved and unimproved grazing land.	Low

Table 4.2.3: LCT 354 Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds (Subtype F1 – Developed area, Subtype F2 – Nucleated Settlements, Subtype F5 – Scattered Settlements etc)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Nature of Visual Enclosure/Openness of Views	F1: Expansive views are afforded to and from nearby settled voes and sounds and adjacent uplands. The Proposed Development has the potential to influence panoramic views, particularly when orientated to the west and north. F2: Views are typically more enclosed around the bays due to localised rising topography, with open views typically overlooking the coast, away from the Site. The Proposed Development has the potential to influence parts of this LCT Subtype where there are views across or along Sullom Voe and Yell Sound where existing industrial and maritime influences are present. F5: Views extend along distinct voes, to upland landscapes, coastal features, and islands. While the Proposed Development typically won't impede on key orientations towards the coastline, some units within this LCT, such as those at Lunna Ness Head, include views directed towards the Site.	Medium
Landmark features or focal points	In the F5 Subtype Lunna Ness is a notable peninsula and steep sided Dales Voe and the peninsula to the south are notable features near the Site. Fora Ness is a notable coastal feature. The Proposed Development has the potential to contrast with these physical features.	High/Medium
Overall evaluation of susceptibility		Low to Medium

Overall Sensitivity Appraisal
Low to Medium sensitivity

Table 4.2.4: LCT 356 Small Uninhabited Islands		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Natural Heritage	Wildlife including seals and sea birds, overlapping SSSIs and SACs on some of the Isles.	High
Cultural Heritage	Abundant archaeological sites, visible in the short ground cover.	High
Landscape Condition	Lack of human influence. Low-lying vegetation of short-grazed and rough grassland with occasional heather cover, grazed by sheep on some islands.	Medium
Distinctiveness	Islands are frequently the focus of views from inhabited islands and the Shetland Mainland.	High/Medium
Recreational	The islands’ perceived beauty and tranquillity offer significant recreational value, attracting wildlife observers and nature enthusiasts. However the islands are only accessible by small boat which reduces recreational opportunities.	Medium
Perceptual (Scenic)	Expansive views towards surrounding coastlines, with views of Mainland, other small off shore Isles, and long distance views down Yell Sound. Views towards the south from the western islands would be influenced by SVT and vessel activity in that area.	High/Medium
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Sense of remoteness, wild character and history. Sights and sounds from wildlife, including seals and a variety of moorland and sea birds enhance the landscape experience. However, vessels within Yell Sound, and industrial activities visible on Mainland would reduce perceived wildness.	High/Medium
Overall evaluation of Value		High/ Medium

Evaluation of Landscape Susceptibility		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Landscape Form and Scale	The islands are small scale and low-lying. The Proposed Development has the potential to contrast with the scale and horizontal profile of the islands.	High
Existing Land Use and Context	Predominantly natural with minimal modern human development. The Proposed Development would potentially contrast with the perceived land use and natural context although this is already influenced to a degree by SVT, and vessel and ferry activity in Yell Sound.	Medium
Landcover Complexity/Simplicity	LCT is not located in immediate hinterlands of the Proposed Development therefore this characteristic would not be affected.	Medium
Nature of Visual Enclosure/Openness of Views	The islands offer expansive vistas, with wide open views across the surrounding seascape. Tall wind turbines would potentially be highly visible from this LCT, breaking the skyline and interrupting long distance views towards the south. However, given the expansiveness of views, key views orientated in other directions, particularly up the Yell Sound, would be away from the Site and not impeded on.	Medium
Landmark features or focal points	The islands are recognisable landmarks in Yell Sound. The Proposed Development has the potential to become a competing focal point with these features.	Medium
Overall evaluation of susceptibility		Medium

Overall Sensitivity Appraisal
High/ Medium sensitivity

Table 4.2.5: LCT 349 Major Uplands (Subtype A2 – East and West Kames, Subtype A3 – Ronas Hill)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Natural Heritage	A2: Limited ecological and natural heritage designations. A3: This area is of considerable natural heritage interest (SSSI).	A2: Medium/Low A3: High
Cultural Heritage	A2: This upland landscape is historically unsettled, some historical features clustered along the top northern end of the LCT unit. A3: A number of historic remains are situated in this landscape, including a chambered cairn on the summit of Ronas Hill.	A2: Medium/Low A3: Medium
Landscape Condition	A2: Largely unsettled, but quarries have altered the landcover to a degree. A3: Largely unsettled, with the summit rock-strewn with little vegetation. Heather moorland and rough grassland dominate the lower slopes.	A2: Medium A3: High
Distinctiveness	A2: Elevated upland landscape forms a large scale backdrop to surrounding lowlands and coastal areas. A3: Ronas Hill is a distinctive landmark, as the tallest point on the Isle and has a distinct domed outline.	A2: Medium A3: High
Recreational	A2: Core paths, recreational fishing and other recreational water-based activities. A3: Popular with tourists and hill walkers.	A2: Medium A3: High
Perceptual (Scenic)	A2: Expansive views are afforded over a series of rounded hills, inland lochs, settled lowland landscapes and the coastline. A3: Panoramic views are afforded to the surrounding landscape, coastline and seascape.	A2: Medium A3: High
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	A2: The presence of traffic on roads and farming activity in adjacent landscapes reduces the sense of remoteness. A3: Largely unsettled and exposed uplands giving a sense of remoteness and wildness. Coincides with WLA 42 Ronas Hill and North Roe.	A2: Medium A3: High
Overall evaluation of Value		High/Medium

Evaluation of Landscape Susceptibility		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Landscape Form and Scale	A2: Large scale landscape of rounded hills forms a system of north south orientated ridges rising up to 281m AOD, either side of a linear inland valley through the north Mainland. Due to intervening distance there is limited potential for the Proposed Development to affect the perceived scale of the landscape.	Low
Existing Land Use and Context	A2: The uplands are largely uninhabited. The main road (A970) is routed through an inland valley defined by the uplands. Telecommunication masts are present on a number of hilltops and quarries are evident. Operational Viking Wind Farm is a notable influence in the south of the Subtype. A3: These uplands are unsettled, with the hilltops featuring some masts. The Proposed Development has the potential to affect the perceived landuse context to the Subtype but would not directly influence the pattern of landuse and would be seen in context of small settlements in adjoining LCTs, and the distant industrial complexes of SVT.	A2: Low A3: Medium/Low
Landcover Complexity/Simplicity	A2: Land cover is simple, comprising of predominantly heather moorland and peatland with a number of lochs. The Proposed Development would contrast with landcover but not directly affect this aspect. A3: Landcover of heather moorland and rough grass slopes. The Proposed Development would contrast with landcover but not directly affect this aspect.	Low
Nature of Visual Enclosure/Openness of Views	A2: Expansive views are afforded over a series of rounded hills, inland lochs, settled lowland landscapes and the coastline. Skylines are simple, open and mainly uninterrupted. The Proposed Development would not have the potential to interrupt views out towards the east, west and south from this LCT. It has the potential to influence long distance views up Yell Sound. A3: Panoramic views are available all around to the surrounding landscape, coastline and seascape. The Proposed Development has the potential to affect views to the southeast from Ronas Hill where it would be perceived in the context of SVT and adjacent industrial development.	A2: Medium A3: High
Landmark features or focal points	Viking Wind Farm is a notable landmark feature in the south of the LCT. Ronas Hill is a widely viewed landmark feature and highest hill in Shetland.	High/Medium
Overall evaluation of susceptibility		Medium

Overall Sensitivity Appraisal
High/Medium sensitivity

Table 4.2.6: LCT 351 Undulating Moorland with Lochs (Subtype C1 – West Mainland etc, Subtype C2 – Lunna Ness and Dragon Ness, Subtype C3 – Uyea, Braewick etc)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Natural Heritage	C1: Granite Headlands with a complex coastal edge is manifested as a variety of headlands, geos, caves and islands but limited ecological designations. C2: There are large areas of natural heritage interest (SSSI). C3: Limited ecologically and geologically valued areas.	C1: High/Medium C2: High/Medium C3: Medium
Cultural Heritage	C1: Historical Settlement remains are frequent in this landscape. C2: Relatively few historical remains in this landscape. C3: Some historical remains in association with coastal locations.	C1: High/Medium C2: Medium C3: Medium
Landscape Condition	C1 and C2: Both largely intact, with limited settlement and manmade elements. C3: Few settlements, areas of agricultural improvement.	C1 and C2: High/Medium C3: Medium
Distinctiveness	C1, C2 and C3: Subtle distinctiveness, with green moorland that tops the hills in C1, a relatively high frequency of lochs in C2, and rocky outcrops and heather moorland in C3.	Medium
Recreational	C1 and C2: Hill walkers, some core paths along the coastal areas. In C1 the A970 runs through and frequently used by tourists. C2: Hill walkers, but limited core paths and roads for access.	Medium
Perceptual (Scenic)	C1: Expansive views occasionally available across the undulating topography, with more expansive coastal views both close and distant towards St Magnus Bay. C2 and C3: Expansive views are afforded to the surrounding coastal landscapes, with C2 having views towards Ronas Hill and Ronas Voe, and C3 views towards surrounding settled lowlands.	High/Medium
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	C1: Limited settlements give a sense of remoteness and wildness, with a higher sense along the remote western edges, overlapping the Shetland NSA and the Nibon and Mangaster LLA. C2: The remote location and lack of settlement and modern development gives this area a sense of remoteness and tranquillity. C3: The association of this area with farmed and settled land gives a reduced sense of remoteness.	High/Medium
Overall evaluation of Value		High/Medium

Evaluation of Landscape Susceptibility		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Landscape Form and Scale	C1: Large scale strongly undulating, yet low-lying landscape with broad rounded hummocks. The undulating topography rises locally up to 169 m AOD on Muckle Roe. Due to intervening distance the Proposed Development is likely to have less of an influence and adverse scale comparisons are unlikely to occur. C2 and C3: Due to intervening distance there is limited potential for the Proposed Development to affect the perceived scale of the landscape.	Medium
Existing Land Use and Context	C1: Overall rugged, largely uninhabited interior landscape, human influence limited to the A970 running though the central area, transmission lines and a few dwellings. The Proposed Development could affect the perceived balance of land uses from the upper ridges although it would be seen in the context of the A970, SVT, commercial piers alongside the Voe of Scatsta and Garths Voe. C2: The remote location and lack of settlement and modern development gives this area an undeveloped character. The Proposed Development could affect the perceived land use context to a degree. It would be seen alongside frequent vessels along the Yell Sound. C3: This LCT Subtype has few settlements, with man-made elements including minor roads through the area, electricity transmission lines, a few croft houses and areas of agricultural improvement. The Proposed Development, where visible, would be a limited additional human influence.	Medium/Low
Landcover Complexity/Simplicity	C1, C2 and C3: Heather moorland, rocky outcrops, peatland, rough grassland and numerous lochs. The Proposed Development would contrast with landcover but not directly affect this aspect.	Low
Nature of Visual Enclosure/Openness of Views	C1: Expansive views occasionally available across the undulating topography, with more expansive coastal views both close and distant towards St Magnus Bay. The Proposed Development could be visible on the skyline of some of the expansive inland views but unlikely to influence coastal views focused out towards St Magnus Bay. C2: Expansive views are afforded to the surrounding coastal landscape and to Ronas Hill and Ronas Voe. Localised views also towards the lochs within the LCTs with surrounding topography largely screening the Proposed Development from these views. These views are orientated away from the Site and there is limited potential for the Proposed Development to affect characteristic views from this LCT. C3: Expansive views are afforded to the surrounding settled lowlands and coast. The Proposed Development has the potential to affect wider views from more elevated areas of the LCT.	Medium
Landmark features or focal points	There are expansive views to coastal landscape and Ronas Hill which is a landmark feature. The Proposed Development could potentially be a minor competing focal point in views.	Medium
Overall evaluation of susceptibility		Medium

Table 4.2.6: LCT 351 Undulating Moorland with Lochs (Subtype C1 – West Mainland etc, Subtype C2 – Lunna Ness and Dragon Ness, Subtype C3 – Uyea, Braewick etc)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Overall Sensitivity Appraisal		
High/Medium sensitivity		

Table 4.2.7: LCT 355 Coastal Edge		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Natural Heritage	Geological value with diversity of colour and rock forms derived from the wide variety of bedrock. Some sections with SSSIs and marine interest.	High/Medium
Cultural Heritage	Many prehistoric and wartime archaeological relics revealed in short grassy landcover.	High/Medium
Landscape Condition	Largely unsettled with limited man-made influences. Highly natural landscape.	High
Distinctiveness	Many prehistoric and wartime archaeological relics revealed in short grassy landcover.	High
Recreational	Unique coastal features such as The Drongs at Hillswick and Dore Holm.	High
Perceptual (Scenic)	Diverse and dramatic coastal scenery with a variety of coastal views. Diversity of colour and rock forms. Extensive views are afforded across the sea, punctuated by frequent coastal features. LCT coincides with Shetland NSA Eshaness, Muckle Roe and North Roe Areas.	High
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Remote, exposed, open and highly natural landscape with wild character.	High
Overall evaluation of Value		High

Evaluation of Landscape Susceptibility		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Landscape Form and Scale	Narrow, indented coastal edge of rocky headlands, inlets and promontories on exposed parts of the coast. Due to intervening distance there is limited potential for the Proposed Development to affect the perceived scale of the landscape.	Medium
Existing Land Use and Context	Undeveloped and uninhabited, and mostly inaccessible by road. Modern man-made structures limited to a few lighthouses and a radar station. Remote, exposed, open and highly natural landscape. Small settlements in adjoining LCTs along Yell Sound, and the distant industrial complexes of SVT are visible from parts of the LCT. The Proposed Development would add to these human influences and could affect the land use context to a limited degree.	Medium/Low
Landcover Complexity/Simplicity	Heather moorland and closely grazed pasture. The Proposed Development would contrast with landcover but not directly affect this aspect.	Medium/Low
Nature of Visual Enclosure/Openness of Views	Extensive views are afforded across the sea and along the coastline, punctuated by frequent coastal features. The main orientation from this LCT is along the coast or out to sea. The Proposed Development has the potential to influence views looking down and along the coastal edge, where it would potentially detract from the visual rhythm the natural coastal features create.	High/Medium
Landmark features or focal points	There are landmark features sauch as Dore Holm and The Drongs. There is limited potential for the Proposed Development to interact with such features.	Medium
Overall evaluation of susceptibility		Medium

Overall Sensitivity Appraisal
High/Medium sensitivity

Table 4.2.8: LCT 353 Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast (Subtype E3 – Coastal Crofting and Grazing Land)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Natural Heritage	Some sections of the coastline overlap with SPA areas. Occasional wetlands, beaches and dunes.	Medium/Low
Cultural Heritage	Many archaeological sites and historic buildings providing visible evidence of the history of settlement since prehistoric times.	High/Medium
Landscape Condition	Man-made influence is evident in the local road system, electricity transmission lines and traditional crofting land use. High proportion of traditional croft land.	Medium

Table 4.2.8: LCT 353 Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast (Subtype E3 – Coastal Crofting and Grazing Land)		
Evaluation of Landscape Value		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Distinctiveness	There is a strong association with the sea, coastal landscapes and islands. Historical settlement and crofting pattern gives some distinctiveness.	High/Medium
Recreational	Scenic appeal attracts visitors, core paths present and also waterborne recreational activities.	High
Perceptual (Scenic)	Views are mainly directed towards the sea and include panoramic views of the coastal fringe. Open, windswept landscapes with little shelter and constant views of the coastline, and across voes and sounds to other land.	High/Medium
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	The presence of settlement and crofting activity in this landscape reduces the sense of remoteness.	Medium
Overall evaluation of Value		High/Medium

Evaluation of Landscape Susceptibility		
Criterion	Description	Evaluation
Landscape Form and Scale	These coastal lowlands have a gently undulating character of relatively small scale.	Medium
Existing Land Use and Context	These areas are relatively undeveloped, maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. Man-made influence is evident in the local road system, electricity transmission lines and traditional crofting land use. Proposed Development would potentially be seen in the background to this context and would also be seen alongside distant industrial complexes of SVT.	Medium
Landcover Complexity/Simplicity	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. The Proposed Development would contrast with landcover but not directly affect this aspect.	Low
Nature of Visual Enclosure/Openness of Views	Open, windswept landscapes with little shelter and constant views of the coastline, and across voes and sounds to other land. The Proposed Development has the potential to be seen on the skyline beyond the LCT at a distance. However, there is the potential for the Proposed Development to affect characteristic views from this LCT at North Roe.	Medium
Landmark features or focal points	Views are mainly directed towards the sea and include panoramic views of the coastal fringe where there are locally notable headlands, sea stacks and other coastal features. There is some potential for the Proposed Development to interact with such features and become a competing focal point.	Medium
Overall evaluation of susceptibility		Medium

Overall Sensitivity Appraisal
High/Medium sensitivity