

Technical Appendix 4.6: Shetland National Scenic Area Special Landscape Qualities Assessment

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1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Technical Appendix describes an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) of Shetland National Scenic Area (NSA).
- 1.1.2 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)**.
- 1.1.3 The assessment accords with NatureScot’s Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects¹ and provides an assessment of whether effects on SLQs would undermine the integrity of the designation. This is consistent with the requirements of Policy 4 of the National Policy Framework (NPF4) that was published by The Scottish Government in February 2023².
- 1.1.4 Policy 4 of NPF4 deals with impacts on local landscape designations stating that:
- “Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest, or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where:
 - The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or
 - Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental, or economic benefits of national importance.”
- 1.1.5 The matter of integrity is addressed in Step 4 of the assessment of effects on the NSA.

1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1 The approach to the assessment follows NatureScot guidance *Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects*¹ and involves the following steps:
- Step 1 – review and describe the Proposed Development;
 - Step 2 – identify the SLQs that may be affected by the Proposed Development;
 - Step 3 – assessment of effects on SLQs and design objectives; and
 - Step 4 – summary of significant effects on SLQs.

1.3 Step 1 – Review and Describe the Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development is described in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**. A summary of the main components likely to affect landscape and visual resources is described in **Chapter 4: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)**. As the Proposed Development is outwith Shetland NSA, effects are likely to arise mainly from visibility of the proposed wind turbines. Ancillary development such as access tracks, crane hard standings and substation is also considered but less likely to result in noticeable effects due to the smaller size of these components and intervening distance.

1.4 Step 2: Identify the SLQs that may be Affected by the Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 Shetland NSA comprises of seven separate ‘Areas’. These are listed in **Table 4.6.1** with the distance and direction to the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development.

Table 4.6.1: Shetland NSA Geographical Areas			
NSA Area	Distance and Direction to Proposed Development	Potential Visibility (see Figures 4.10 and 4.13a-4.13c)	Included in Detailed Assessment and Reason
North Roe	11 km north northwest	Theoretical visibility of blades and hubs from the eastern part of the NSA Area.	Yes – potential for effects on the experience of remoteness, tranquility and solitude.
Eshaness	12 km west	Theoretical visibility of blades and hubs mainly at Ness of Hillswick. Theoretical visibility of blades only along a short stretch of the B9078 west of Burnside and in the west of the peninsula.	Yes – a popular area for visitors with potential for long distance views.
Muckle Roe	12.5 km southwest	Theoretical visibility of blades and hubs from the northeastern part of the NSA Area mainly coinciding with uninhabited moorland.	Yes - potential for effects on the experience of remoteness, tranquility and solitude.
Hermaness	25 km northwest	There are very small areas of theoretical visibility at Hermaness Hill and at Tonga headland.	No – very limited theoretical visibility and intervening distance.
South West Mainland	27.5 km south	None	No - No theoretical visibility.
Foula	55 km southwest	Theoretical visibility from Da Sneug and Da Bark Hill and from the recognised viewpoint at the Siordar Memorial.	No - Limited theoretical visibility and intervening distance.
Fair Isle	103 km south southwest	Beyond area of ZTV.	No - Intervening distance.

- 1.4.2 NatureScot identifies nine SLQ and these are described in *The Scenic Qualities of the National Scenic Areas*³ and summarised below:
- “SLQ1 The stunning variety of the extensive coastline;
 - SLQ2 Coastal views both close and distant;
 - SLQ3 Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast;
 - SLQ4 The hidden coasts;
 - SLQ5 The effects and co-existence of wind and shelter;

¹ NatureScot (2025). Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects. [online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects> [Accessed 09/04/2026].

² Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/02/national-planning-framework-4/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4.pdf>. [Accessed 09/04/2026]

³ Scottish Natural Heritage (2010) The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 374 (iBids and Project N° 648)

- SLQ6 A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity;
 - SLQ7 The notable and memorable coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs;
 - SLQ8 The distinctive cultural landmarks; and
 - SLQ9 Northern light.”
- 1.4.3 All nine SLQ may be experienced in the seven NSA Areas. NatureScot’s description of SLQ relative to the seven Areas indicates that some SLQ may be more strongly evident in some Areas than others.
- 1.4.4 The following information has been used to identify NSA SLQ that may be affected by the Proposed Development:
- NatureScot’s description of the special landscape qualities of NSAs;
 - NatureScot’s online landscape character type map and descriptions;
 - **Figures 4.3 to 4.6, 4.10, 4.12, 4.13a-c (EIAR Volume 3a);**
 - Visualisations in **Figures 4.23a to 4.23f;**
 - Ordnance Survey 5 m digital terrain data; and
 - 1:50,000 scale Ordnance Survey digital map data.
- 1.4.5 Survey work was undertaken in October 2025 and February 2026 to undertake baseline survey work in Shetland NSA to understand the susceptibility of NSA SLQ to change from the Proposed Development; evaluate the way in which the SLQ are experienced and to assess overall effects of the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.6 Three of the seven Shetland NSA areas were visited:
- North Roe;
 - Eshaness; and
 - Muckle Roe.
- 1.4.7 The other four NSA areas: Fair Isle, South West Mainland, Foula, and Hermaness were excluded from survey and assessment due to limited visibility of the Proposed Development (as indicated on **Figure 4.12: Shetland National Scenic Area and Hub Height ZTV (EIAR Volume 3a)**) and intervening distance.
- 1.4.8 NatureScot agreed (**Technical Appendix 1.1: Consultation Register (EIAR Volume 4)**) to the exclusion of the four Areas identified in **Table 4.6.1** in the geographical scope of the NSA SLQ assessment and requested that the following four SLQ are assessed for the other three Areas:
- “SLQ2 Coastal views both close and distant;
 - SLQ3 Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast;
 - SLQ4 The hidden coasts; and
 - SLQ6 A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity.”
- 1.4.9 **Table 4.6.2** describes an evaluation of all nine SLQ providing a thorough analysis of the potential for effects on SLQ in the three Areas being assessed.
- 1.4.10 The four SLQ identified by NatureScot for detailed consideration are assessed in further detail in Step 3 which is described in **Table 4.6.3**.

Table 4.6.2: Assessment of Sensitivity and Potential for Significant Effects on Shetland NSA SLQ		
Step 1 – Description of the NSA, underlying Landscape Character and Potential Visibility of the Proposed Development.		
<u>Description</u> Shetland NSA covers an area of 418 km². It comprises of seven separate and geographically distinct Areas. North Roe, Eshaness and Muckle Roe are separate Areas in the north west of Shetland Mainland. Hermaness Area on Unst is the most northerly part of the British Isles. Southwest Mainland Area is the largest Shetland NSA Area extending from Weisdale in the north to Fitful Head in the south. The two remaining Areas: Foula and Fair Isle are two of the remotest inhabited islands in the British Isles. Foula lies 22 km southwest of Shetland Mainland while Fair Isle is 37 km south of Sumburgh and 42 km from North Ronaldsay in the Orkney Islands. The detailed assessment describes only North Roe, Eshaness and Muckle Roe as these are the Areas most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. Underpinning Landscape Character The main underpinning LCTs are: ▪ LCT350 Peatland and Moorland. Eshaness Area only; ▪ LCT351 Undulating Moorland with Lochs. All three NSA Areas; ▪ LCT353 Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast. North Roe and Eshaness NSA Areas; ▪ LCT354 Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds. Mainly North Roe and Eshaness NSA Areas; and ▪ LCT355 Coastal Edge. All three NSA Areas. <u>Potential Visibility of the Proposed Development</u> North Roe Area The ZTV shown on Figures 4.10: Landscape Designations (NSA, LLA) and Wild Land Areas with Tip Height Bare Ground ZTV and 4.13a: Shetland National Scenic Area and Hub Height ZTV – Detailed Assessment – North Roe (EIAR Volume 3a) indicate that hubs and blade tips of the proposed turbines would be visible mainly from the eastern coast and sea areas of North Roe and from isolated uninhabited areas inland. Visibility would coincide with core paths in the NSA Area. There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from the central and western part of the North Roe Area. Eshaness Area There would be visibility mainly from elevated parts of Ness of Hillswick as shown on the ZTV on Figures 4.10: Landscape Designations (NSA, LLA) and Wild Land Areas with Tip Height ZTV and 4.13a: Shetland National Scenic Area and Hub Height ZTV – Detailed Assessment – North Roe (EIAR Volume 3a). There would be visibility from a short stretch of the B9078 to the west of Burnside and in the western most part of Eshaness. In the west of Eshaness visibility would be of blades only and mainly of up to three proposed turbines. Visibility would coincide with short sections of core paths at Ness of Hillswick and at Stennes and South Head of Caldersgeo. There would be no visibility from the majority of the NSA Area. Muckle Roe Area The ZTV shown on Figures 4.10: Landscape Designations (NSA, LLA) and Wild Land Areas with Tip Height ZTV and 4.13a: Shetland National Scenic Area and Hub Height ZTV – Detailed Assessment – North Roe (EIAR Volume 3a) indicate that visibility of the Proposed Development would occur in uninhabited northeastern parts of the Muckle Roe NSA Area. Visibility would not coincide with any core paths in the NSA Area. There would be no visibility from the majority of the NSA Area.		
Step 2 – Identification of SLQ that could be affected by the Proposed Development		
SLQ	Sensitivity of the SLQ to the Proposed Development	Potential for the SLQ to be affected by the Proposed Development
SLQ1 The stunning variety of the extensive coastline <i>“Shetland’s long, extensive coastline is highly varied: from fissured and fragmented hard rock coasts, to gentler formations of accumulated gravels, sands, spits and bars; from remarkably steep cliffs to sloping bays; from long, sheltered voes to cliffs exposed to the full fury of the Atlantic ocean. The landscape is an intimate mix of sea and land. The sea reaches far inland by way of voes, firths and sounds, an inland coast in marked contrast to the dynamic outer coast of wild Atlantic ‘oceanscapes’. Here the land reaches into the open sea on many points and promontories. This huge variety has arisen from the interaction between geology, glaciation and sea level changes, and results in the dramatic coastal scenery as encapsulated within the seven areas of the NSA.”</i>	The Proposed Development could not affect the physical features of the coastline and the contrast between the enclosed firths and voes and the open Atlantic seas. The Proposed Development would potentially be visible in the distance in views along the coast from parts of the NSA and could affect the composition of views and perceived scenic qualities. However, given the separation distance and the stronger influence of physical features in views susceptibility to change is evaluated as medium/low. Sensitivity of this SLQ is evaluated as Medium.	The Proposed Development would not affect the way the variety of coastal scenery is experienced as it would be separated from the NSA areas by intervening distance and landform. There would potentially be views of the Proposed Development at distances of 11 km or more. At such distances the proposed turbines are unlikely to result in adverse scale comparisons with coastal features or be a pervasive and distracting focal point in views. Significant effects on this SLQ are unlikely. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
SLQ2 Coastal views both close and distant <i>"Such a variety of coastal scenery allows for a magnificent range of coastal views. In places distant islands lie low on the horizon, in others there is a near view to an inshore island, or to a neighbouring shore of this articulated coast. The striking form of distant Foula, with its great height of 418 m and the Kame cliffs rising to 366 m, catches the eye along many stretches of the South West Mainland."</i>	The Proposed Development could alter the composition of views and balance of natural and man-made features in the landscape beyond the NSA. It could interrupt views along the coast from the NSA and across land to neighbouring shores. Development that is noticeable in views has the potential to change this SLQ. Susceptibility to change of this SLQ is evaluated as high. Sensitivity is evaluated as High.	The Proposed Development has the potential to affect coastal views within and from the NSA areas. Given the High sensitivity of this SLQ, effects could potentially be significant and it is considered further in Step 3.

SLQ3 Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast <i>"Thousands of years of human occupation has given the landscape a rich archaeological heritage, including ancient brochs and modern crofts.</i> <i>Settlement has always been constrained by the nature of the land, largely confined to strips of ground rarely out of sight of the sea. Houses are concentrated at the heads of voes or in sheltered bays, well placed to make use of the sea and coastal resources.</i> <i>The green, inbye land of the crofts and farms contrasts with the common grazings of wild, unimproved and uninhabited moorland and bog. There are also long lengths of remote and uninhabited coast."</i>	The Proposed Development could not affect the current or historic pattern of settlement or the variations in land use in the NSA. The pattern of agricultural activity and crofting land could also not be affected by the Proposed Development. Visibility of the Proposed Development could affect the perception of the hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is evaluated as medium. Sensitivity is evaluated as High/Medium.	The Proposed Development would not be located in the immediate hinterland to the three NSA areas. It would be seen in the context of an area of coast that is partly developed and includes settlement and transport infrastructure. NatureScot has advised that <i>"it is possible that the proposed development will be visible from settlement within the NSA such as from farmsteads and residential properties in the North Roe area."</i> The effects on views and visual amenity from settlements and residential properties are considered in Chapter 4: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 4). Given its High/Medium sensitivity, the way in which SLQ3 is experienced could potentially be significantly affected by the Proposed Development and this is considered further in Step 3.
SLQ4 The hidden coasts <i>"Because the land is undulating, markedly so in the western mainland, the actual brink of the coastal edge may be hidden or difficult of access. This brings an element of surprise when caves, geos and gloups are suddenly encountered, inviting further exploration."</i>	The Proposed Development could not affect this SLQ. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is evaluated as low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	The Proposed Development would not affect the way that unseen parts of the coast are encountered. NatureScot has requested that this SLQ is considered in detail. However, having visited the three NSA Areas considered in this assessment and walked sections of coastline, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would detract from the way in which this SLQ is experienced. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
SLQ5 The effects and co-existence of wind and shelter <i>"The wind appears ever-present and the absence of trees, or even shrubs, gives an open and exposed feel to much of the landscape. The frequent gales can be awe-inspiring, and in high seas fröde (sea-foam) can fleck the coastal grasslands, well-inland from the coastal edge.</i> <i>Weather, skies and light are rarely static, with continual movement of clouds, waves, sea-spray and grasses. The interplay of light and shade moving across the sea, the coastal grasslands or the interior moorland adds a special dynamism.</i> <i>With wind a determining force, so the presence of shelter is acutely perceived. Hence, an awareness of both wind and shelter is a particular quality of these areas. There may be the distant sound of stormy seas pounding the mouth of a bay or voe, while inland waters or a sheltered hollow remain still and calm."</i>	The Proposed Development could not affect the movement of water, clouds and grassland by the wind or the interplay of light across the sea and land. This SLQ could be susceptible to change from wind farm development which could compete with the natural forces that dominate and the factor of dynamism which stems from the movement of natural features rather than movement of man-made features. However, given the distance to the Proposed Development from the NSA, susceptibility to change is evaluated as low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	This SLQ is about the way in which weather affects the appearance of the sky and sea and the movement of vegetation, waves and clouds and the interplay of light and shade. The Proposed Development may be seen as a feature on the horizon but is unlikely to result in significant effects on the experience of this SLQ due to intervening distance. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
SLQ6 A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity <i>"The feeling of being at the northern limits of the British Isles is marked. The Shetland Isles are remote in themselves, and within the archipelago there are also degrees of remoteness. Fair Isle and Foula are the remotest inhabited islands in the British Isles – although they have both been long-inhabited with a rich history of human settlement.</i> <i>Most of the coastline is undeveloped and natural, and long stretches can be traversed without seeing anyone or any human influence.</i> <i>Hence solitude and tranquillity underpin much of the NSA coast, and it is easy to wander with only the seabirds for company. However tranquillity can give way to alarm as the wind picks up, the rain begins and an Atlantic storm sets in."</i>	The Proposed Development could affect the perceived undeveloped character of the coast and could increase the degree of human influence. The Proposed Development could not affect the physical characteristics of remoteness although perceived remoteness could be affected by visibility of development. Susceptibility to change of this SLQ is evaluated as high. Sensitivity is evaluated as High.	Visibility of the Proposed Development has the potential to affect the sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity by introducing development into views from parts of the three areas. Given the High sensitivity of this SLQ, effects could potentially be significant and it is considered further in Step 3.

SLQ7 The notable and memorable coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs <i>"Where open to the full fury of the Atlantic Ocean, the sea has carved impressive cliffs, forming spectacular, towering, vertical scenery, varying greatly in colour according to the complex geology.</i> <i>The coast also contains many distinctive stacks, promontories and other features that form memorable images. Within the NSA these include:</i> <i>Muckle Flugga with its distinctive sloping, pointed rocks;</i> <i>The imposing cliffs of Hermaness itself, with its nesting seabirds. Also the western cliffs of Muckle Roe, the Clift Hills area of Southwest Mainland, and the lower cliffs on the west of Eshaness;</i> <i>Ramna Stacks, a group of skerries seen off the Point of Fethaland;</i> <i>The Drongs of Hillswick within the Eshaness area, the outermost and most curious of a series of stacks that emerge from the sea in St Magnus Bay;</i> <i>Dore Holm (Old Norse 'doorway islet') within Eshaness. Its natural arch 21 m high on its western side is a remarkable feature;</i> <i>Verdant St Ninian's Isle, joined to the mainland with its distinctive tombolo, Fitful Head, a reference point in many views within South West Mainland, and from the northwest Mainland at Eshaness and Hillswick.</i> <i>On Fair Isle:</i> <i>Sheep Crag, a distinctive headland semi-detached from the island's east coast;</i> <i>Bu Ness (Old Norse Home Headland) joined to the island by a narrow isthmus dividing two sheltered bays, North and South Haven; and</i> <i>On the west coast, a series of distinctive eminences add variety to the coastal scenery, notably Malcolm's Head.</i> <i>On Foula:</i> <i>Five distinct peaks all sloping northwards, of which The Sneug is the highest at 418 m;</i> <i>Sneck ida Smaalie, a spectacular rock cleft 60 m deep, 1m wide and that extends for 50 m; abd</i> <i>The stacks of Gaada, Sheepie and The Brough; Gaada is dissected by two arches, capped by eroded and loosened boulders."</i>	The Proposed Development could not affect the coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs. It could be seen in views of these features and could invite scale comparisons with these features. However, given the intervening distance susceptibility would be reduced and is considered to be medium/low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	The Proposed Development would not affect these physical features of the coast. Intervening distance to the proposed turbines means that adverse scale comparisons with the height of stacks and cliffs is unlikely to occur. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
SLQ8 The distinctive cultural landmarks <i>"There are many cultural features that bear witness to the Shetlanders' long history and their economic reliance on the sea over the centuries. Those that provide focal or incidental points within the over-arching natural landscape of the NSA include:</i> <i>The lighthouses of Muckle Flugga, Esha Ness, and the North and South Lights of Fair Isle;</i> <i>The ancient broch on the Loch of Houlland (Eshaness);</i> <i>The remains of the bōds and fishing lodges at Stenness and Fethaland; and</i> <i>Noosts (protective, on-shore boat berths) on Fair Isle."</i>	The Proposed Development could contrast with distinctive cultural landmarks and contrast with the overarching natural landscape in which these features are set. However, the intervening distance to the Proposed Development and the variety and distribution of cultural landmarks throughout the NSA mean that the Proposed Development could not be a strong influencing factor on the perception of this SLQ. Susceptibility to change of this SLQ is evaluated as medium/low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	The Proposed Development is unlikely to be a competing focal point to cultural landmarks due to intervening distance. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
SLQ9 Northern light <i>"At midsummer there is still light in the sky at midnight, the 'simmer dim'. At midwinter the short hours of daylight are highly appreciated, and the general absence of light pollution enables the night sky to be appreciated in all its glory.</i> <i>On some days there is great visual clarity, with long views often highlighted by intense rainbows; at other times, long days of low cloud and mist restrict views to the immediate vicinity."</i>	The Proposed Development could not affect the quality of northern light during daylight hours. Lights on the Proposed Development could affect the appreciation of the night sky. However, the 'further information' section of the NSA description notes that <i>"truly dark skies cannot be experienced everywhere on Shetland as there is light pollution from the Sullom Voe oil terminal, Lerwick and some of the larger settlements."</i> Given intervening distance to the Proposed Development and its position adjacent to Sullom Voe and low on the horizon susceptibility is evaluated as low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	The Proposed Development is unlikely to result in significant effects on the dark skies experienced from the NSA. Lighting at SVT would reduce the perceived contrast of turbine lights with the baseline. If visibility is greater than 5 km lights on the proposed turbines would be operating in automatic dimming mode at 10% of full intensity. Therefore, at distances of 11 km and greater to the nearest NSA area, the lights would have a limited influence on available views from the NSA. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.

1.5 Step 3 – Assessment of Effects on SLQs and Design Objectives

Table 4.5.3: Step 3 - Detailed Assessment of Effects on Shetland NSA SLQ		
SLQ	Description of Predicted Effects on SLQ	Significance of Effects of the Proposed Development on SLQ
SLQ2 Coastal views both close and distant	The variety of coastal scenery is experienced when walking along the coast or in views from roads in the NSA Areas or adjacent landscapes. Close views are best experienced when walking along the coast along cliff top paths or along beaches. The experience is heightened by proximity to the sea and the intricate detail of coastal features is more readily perceived. The Proposed Development could be discernible as a distant feature in such views but would be incidental to the experience of close range views. Distant views along the coast and out to open sea are experienced from the three Areas assessed. Distant views from Muckle Roe extend north towards Eshaness and west to Papa Stour. The Proposed Development would not affect these views. Blade tips may be visible from small areas of upland in Muckle Roe Area. However, intervening landform and distance would reduce the coastal context of views and the influence of the Proposed Development. From Eshaness, distant views encompass the coast southeast to Muckle Roe and around the sweep of Magnus Bay to Papa Stour. There are views northeast along the coast and out to the open seas of the Atlantic. Mainly blade tips of the Proposed Development would be visible in landward views across layers of intervening ridges and undulating moorland. The Proposed Development would be seen as a distant feature in a landward context and there would be very limited influence on coastal views from Eshaness Area. From North Roe there are views northeast along the coast of Yell towards Hermaness. The high cliffs to the north of West Sandwick on Yell are a notable feature and islands in Yell Sound form a diverse seascape beyond which the Proposed Development would be seen. Viewpoint 1 (Figure 4.23a-f: Viewpoint 1: Minor Track North Roe (EIAR Volume 3b)) shows a view from the eastern part of North Roe Area and indicates that the Proposed Development would be seen beyond the enclosing headland of Head of Calsta at the south end of Yell Sound. It would be a noticeable new feature in views along the coast and as shown on the ZTV (Figure 4.13a: Shetland National Scenic Area and Hub Height ZTV – Detailed Assessment – North Roe (EIAR Volume 3a)) it would be seen from core paths in the eastern part of the NSA Area.	Views of the Proposed Development would be restricted mainly to blade tips from Muckle Roe Area and from elevated moorland where core paths are not present. The experience of short-range coastal views would not be affected and there would be no influence on long distance coastal views due to intervening distance and landform. The magnitude of change on SLQ2 in the Muckle Roe Area would be Negligible and the residual effects on this SLQ of High sensitivity would be Minor and Not Significant. In the Eshaness Area the focus of coastal views is along the cliff edges in the far west; views to Dore Holm in the southwest and the Drongs in the east at Ness of Hillswick. Views sweep around Magnus Bay to Papa Stour and west to the open ocean. The immediate hinterland to the north and east from a backdrop to landward views. The more distant views across ridges and hills between the NSA Area and the Proposed Development are part of a wider panorama to the east. The Proposed Development would be discernible mainly from the Hillswick area but would have no influence on coastal views which are directed along the coast or outward to the south and west. The magnitude of change on SLQ2 in the Eshaness Area would be Negligible and the residual effects on this SLQ of High sensitivity would be Minor and Not Significant. In the North Roe Area the Proposed Development would be a noticeable new feature in views outward from the eastern part of the NSA. It would be seen from core paths that traverse this part of the NSA and would be a new focal point seen in the context of SVT. The Proposed Development would be visible predominantly along the eastern side of this NSA, along the coastline of Yell Sound and also along the eastern interior summits and upper moorland on Fethaland Isle and around Sand Voe. The Proposed Development would not interrupt views of notable coastal features or islands and would be seen beyond the open waters of Yell Sound without impinging upon views of cliffs on the west coast of Yell or views north to Hermaness. The western part of North Roe Area and long stretches of coast in the north of the Area would not be affected. The magnitude of change on SLQ2 in the North Roe Area would be Moderate/Slight and the residual effects on this SLQ of High sensitivity would be Moderate and Significant.
SLQ3 Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast	As mentioned in Table 4.6.2, the Proposed Development could not affect the historic pattern of settlement and land use in the NSA. The Proposed Development would be visible and would contrast with the scale of existing development and land use but would not alter the existing pattern in the NSA and would be perceived as being separated from the NSA by intervening distance in all three Areas assessed. Intervening distance would also reduce the influence of the Proposed Development on the hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast. The hinterland comprises the adjoining landward backdrop to the NSA and wider coastal areas. At Muckle Roe the immediate hinterland comprises the eastern landmass of Muckle Roe. The wider hinterland could be perceived to encompass the enclosing hillsides around Swarbacks Minn to the south, Cole Deep, Olna Firth and Busta Voe to the east and Mangaster Voe to the north. Beyond these landmasses the ground plane of the hinterland is not evident and it is perceived as a skyline formed by a retaining edge of hills. The Proposed Development would be situated beyond this retaining edge and would have a very limited influence on this SLQ. At Eshaness the hinterland is more evident to the north and east of the NSA Area and is perceived as a plateau area of undulating terrain with lochans and isolated dwellings and farmsteads at its fringes. Beyond this hinterland there is a broad area of ridges and hills separating the NSA and the hinterland from the Proposed Development. To the south south east, turbines at Viking Wind Farm are visible as distant features on the horizon. Mainly blade tips of the Proposed Development would be visible and the immediate context of Sullom Voe would not be discernible due to landform screening. Given intervening distance and the presence of dwellings and farmsteads in the intervening area, the influence of the Proposed Development on the hinterland to Eshaness Area would be very limited. The hinterland at North Roe comprises the landmass to the south of the NSA Area extending to Ronas Hill which is a notable feature and part of Ronas Hill and North Roe WLA. The coast on the western side of Ronas Hill is within the WLA and a visible part of the coastal hinterland from the western part of the NSA Area. The coast on the east side of the North Roe peninsula is more influenced by settlement and infrastructure and views south along Yell Sound are influenced by SVT. The Proposed Development would be visible in conjunction with the hinterland of moorland and coast and would increase the amount of development in the wider area.	At Muckle Roe and Eshaness the Proposed Development would be discernible but would be noticeably separated from both of these NSA Areas and associated hinterland. The Proposed Development would be perceived as a feature beyond the hinterland with lower parts of the turbines screened by intervening landform. The perceived scale of the proposed turbines relative to features in the NSA and the hinterland would be limited due to intervening distance and partial screening by landform. The scale of the intervening landmass would reduce the influence of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change on SLQ3 in the Muckle Roe and Eshaness Areas would be Negligible and the residual effects on this SLQ of High/Medium sensitivity would be Minor and Not Significant. At North Roe Area the Proposed Development would introduce development at a location already influenced by settlement and industrial infrastructure at SVT. The Proposed Development would be located in the wider area beyond the immediate hinterland of moorland and undeveloped coast. It would be a noticeable addition to existing development at that locality and from some locations in the NSA would be visible from areas that SVT and other development would not be seen. However, intervening distance and separation from the immediate hinterland to North Roe NSA area mean that the influence of the Proposed Development on this SLQ would be limited. The magnitude of change on SLQ3 in the North Roe Area would be Slight and the residual effects on this SLQ of High/Medium sensitivity would be Moderate and Not Significant.
SLQ6 A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity	Remoteness is a physical characteristic defined by separation from main centres of population. The Proposed Development could not affect that physical separation. Solitude is the experience of being alone and the Proposed Development could not affect that experience of this SLQ. The Proposed Development could affect perceived tranquillity of the NSA. Tranquillity is an experience of calm or lack	At Muckle Roe and Eshaness the experience of SLQ6 is strongly evident due to the absence of development and the separation from centres of population. Muckle Roe is a secluded area with a strong sense of tranquillity and lack of development. Eshaness is a more dynamic area where the forces of waves and weather are more evident with some tourism related development. There would be limited visibility of the

Table 4.5.3: Step 3 - Detailed Assessment of Effects on Shetland NSA SLQ		
SLQ	Description of Predicted Effects on SLQ	Significance of Effects of the Proposed Development on SLQ
	of disturbance. The introduction of the proposed turbines and movement of the rotors has the potential to adversely affect the sense of calm and lack of disturbance experienced in the NSA. Of the three NSA Areas assessed Muckle Roe is the least influenced by existing development. The NSA Area is uninhabited and development is absent. Development beyond the NSA Area has an influence to a degree but the overall experience is of an undeveloped area strongly influenced by natural features, the weather and sea. Given the intervening distance to the Proposed Development and visibility mainly of blade tips, the influence of moving blades on the proposed turbines and their appearance on the distant skyline beyond an intervening landmass would be limited. There is a strong sense of remoteness and isolation at Eshaness. The journey to reach the western part of the NSA Area takes a long time due to the winding narrow road and distance from centres of population. It is a dynamic part of the NSA where the interface of physical coastal features and the sea creates movement. Mainly blade tips of the Proposed Development would be visible from a small part of the NSA and the potential to influence perceived tranquillity would consequently be small. The Proposed Development would not introduce development into the NSA or be associated with the coast due to intervening landform screening the ground plane of the Site and adjacent coastal context. At North Roe Area the Proposed Development would be noticeable from the eastern part of the NSA as shown on Viewpoint 1 (Figure 4.23a-f: Viewpoint 1: Minor Track North Roe (EIAR Volume 3b)) and the ZTV shown on Figures 4.5, 4.6 and 4.13a (EIAR Volume 3a). Most of the NSA area would be unaffected. Where visible the proposed turbines would be seen in the context of SVT and the developed coastal area in its vicinity. The revolving rotors of the proposed turbines would introduce movement, but this would not be close to the NSA or be rapid enough to creating a distracting movement due to intervening distance. Where visible the proposed turbines would have an influence on the sense of tranquillity in North Roe Area.	Proposed Development from these two areas both in terms of the amount of the Proposed Development that would be seen and the geographical extent of the NSA from which visibility would occur. Perceived tranquillity is experienced throughout the NSA and distant views of proposed turbines would not reduce the quality of that experience. The magnitude of change on SLQ6 in the Muckle Roe and Eshaness Areas would be Negligible and the residual effects on this SLQ of High sensitivity would be Minor and Not Significant. In the North Roe Area, the Proposed Development would be more noticeable from the eastern part of the NSA Area and from the interior eastern summits where relative wildness is lower and it would be seen in context of nearby settlements. There would be uninterrupted views from elevated areas down Yell Sound to SVT where the Proposed Development would add to existing infrastructure on that developed section of coast. Views of the Proposed Development would not diminish the experience of tranquillity in this part of the NSA and large parts of the North Roe Area would be unaffected. While the Proposed Development would be a noticeable new feature it is considered that the experience of SLQ6 would remain strongly evident. The magnitude of change on SLQ6 in the North Roe Area would be Slight and the residual effects on this SLQ of High sensitivity would be Moderate and Not Significant.

1.6 Step 4 – Summary of Significant Effects on SLQs

- 1.6.1 The assessment described in **Tables 4.6.2** and **4.6.3** has identified the potential for significant effects on three of the seven geographical areas of Shetland NSA:
- North Roe;

• Eshaness; and

• Muckle Roe.
- 1.6.2 Within these Areas there would be the potential for significant effects on three of the nine SLQ:
- SLQ2 Coastal views both close and distant;

• SLQ3 Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast; and

• SLQ6 A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity.

SLQ2 Coastal views both close and distant

- 1.6.3 This SLQ is assessed as being of High sensitivity to the Proposed Development.
- 1.6.4 The Proposed Development would affect the way this SLQ is experienced and perceived mainly from the eastern part of the North Roe NSA area. From this part of the North Roe NSA Area the magnitude of change is assessed as Moderate/Slight and the residual effect on the SLQ would be **Moderate** and **Significant**.
- 1.6.5 In the Muckle Roe NSA Area and the Eshaness NSA Area the influence of the Proposed Development would be very limited and the magnitude of change is assessed as Negligible for both Areas. The residual effect on the SLQ would be **Minor** and **Not Significant** in both of these Areas.

SLQ3 Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast

- 1.6.6 This SLQ is assessed as being of High/Medium sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

- 1.6.7 The Proposed Development would affect the way this SLQ is perceived and experienced mainly in the eastern part of the North Roe NSA Area. From this part of the North Roe NSA Area the magnitude of change is assessed as Slight and the residual effect on the SLQ would be **Moderate** and **Not Significant**.
- 1.6.8 In the Muckle Roe NSA Area and the Eshaness NSA Area the influence of the Proposed Development would be very limited and the magnitude of change is assessed as Negligible for both Areas. The residual effect on the SLQ would be **Minor** and **Not Significant** in both of these Areas.
- SLQ6 A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity
- 1.6.9 This SLQ is assessed as being of High sensitivity to the Proposed Development.
- 1.6.10 The Proposed Development would affect the way this SLQ is perceived and experienced mainly in the eastern part of the North Roe NSA Area. From this part of the North Roe NSA Area the magnitude of change is assessed as Slight and the residual effect on the SLQ would be **Moderate** and **Not Significant**.
- 1.6.11 In the Muckle Roe NSA Area and the Eshaness NSA Area the influence of the Proposed Development would be very limited and the magnitude of change is assessed as Negligible for both Areas. The residual effect on the SLQ would be **Minor** and **Not Significant** in both of these Areas.

Shetland NSA Assessment Conclusions

- 1.6.12 Three of the seven NSA Areas would potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. Four of the seven Areas would not be affected due to no or very limited visibility and long intervening distance to the Proposed Development.
- 1.6.13 There would be three of the nine SLQs potentially affected by the Proposed Development. There would be the potential for a **Moderate** and **Significant** effect on one aspect of SLQ2 Coastal views both close and distant, in only the eastern part of the North Roe Area. The effects on SLQ2 would be localised to

a small part of the North Roe Area with the remaining central and western part unaffected. Effects on SLQ3 and SLQ6 would be **Not Significant** in the North Roe Area.

1.6.14 Residual effects on SLQs at Muckle Roe Area and Eshaness Area would be **Not Significant**.

1.6.15 Given the residual effects on SLQs described above it is concluded that the objectives of designation and overall integrity of Shetland NSA would not be compromised.