



**Landscape  
Sensitivity  
Assessment  
– Onshore  
Wind Energy  
Development in  
Aberdeenshire**  
Planning advice  
PA2023-03

September 2023

APPENDIX 1

## Appendix 1: Sensitivity assessment tables

NatureScot 2019 national dataset reference number	Name of Landscape Character Type <sup>1</sup>
10	<a href="#">Cliffs and Rocky Coast – Aberdeenshire</a>
11	<a href="#">Fragmented Rocky Coast</a>
12	<a href="#">Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire</a>
13	<a href="#">Raised Beach Coast – Aberdeenshire</a>
14	<a href="#">Gently Undulating Coastal Farmland</a>
15	<a href="#">Broad Ridges and Valleys</a>
16	<a href="#">Coastal Farmland with Ridges and Valleys</a>
17	<a href="#">Coastal Agricultural Plain – Aberdeenshire</a>
18	<a href="#">Low Hills and Basins</a>
19	<a href="#">Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills</a>
20	<a href="#">Undulating Agricultural Heartland</a>

NatureScot 2019 national dataset reference number	Name of Landscape Character Type <sup>1</sup>
21	<a href="#">Farmland and Wooded Policies</a>
22	<a href="#">Broad Valley Lowlands – Aberdeenshire</a>
23	<a href="#">Farmed Basin – Aberdeenshire</a>
24	<a href="#">Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills – Aberdeenshire</a>
25	<a href="#">Farmed Strath – Aberdeenshire</a>
26	<a href="#">Wooded Estates – Aberdeenshire</a>
27	<a href="#">Farmed Moorland Edge – Aberdeenshire</a>
28	<a href="#">Outlying Hills &amp; Ridges</a>
29	<a href="#">Summits and Plateaux – Aberdeenshire</a>
30	<a href="#">Narrow Winding Farmed Valley</a>
31	<a href="#">Broad Wooded and Farmed Valley</a>
32	<a href="#">Farmed and Wooded River Valleys</a>
33	<a href="#">Broad Wooded Valley with Estates</a>

<sup>1</sup> Hyperlinked to the NatureScot summary pdf's for each LCT at: [Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions | NatureScot](#).

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [10 - Cliffs and Rocky Coast - Aberdeenshire](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Formerly *Cliffs of the North and South East Coasts* and extended down to Cruden Bay; now a single stretch of the northern coast in Banff and Buchan; the other part is now LCT11 – *Fragmented Rocky Coast*.
- 2014 Study ‘base landscape capacity’ conclusion was ‘no capacity’ over 15m height turbines.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An open, medium to large scale landscape with panoramic views over wide expanses of sea.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape which forms a relatively narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape which forms a relatively narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape which forms a relatively narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape which forms a relatively narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type is likely to dominate this landscape which forms a relatively narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sloping farmland leading to high headlands, sheer cliffs, occasional narrow inlets and sheltered bays along this rocky coastline.</li> </ul>	<p>This landscape type is highly susceptible to impact from the very tall turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate satisfactorily to the sensitivities of this landscape character type with its dramatic rocky coastline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape type is highly susceptible to impact from the very tall turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate satisfactorily to the sensitivities of this landscape character type with its dramatic rocky coastline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape type is highly susceptible to impact from the very tall turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate satisfactorily to the sensitivities of this landscape character type with its dramatic rocky coastline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape type is susceptible to impact from the very tall turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate satisfactorily to the sensitivities of this landscape character type with its dramatic rocky coastline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape type is likely to be susceptible to impact from the very tall turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate satisfactorily to the sensitivities of this landscape character type with its dramatic rocky coastline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very simple patterns of fields with cultivation running to the cliff edge, and areas of uncultivated ground limited to inaccessible areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Potential development would significantly intrude on this highly natural and distinctive land pattern of the coastal edge. The development</p>	<p>Potential development would significantly intrude on this highly natural and distinctive land pattern of the coastal edge. The</p>	<p>Potential development would intrude on this highly natural and distinctive land pattern of the coastal edge. The development</p>	<p>Potential development could intrude on this highly natural and distinctive land pattern of the coastal edge. The development</p>	<p>Potential development could potentially intrude on this highly natural and distinctive land pattern of the coastal edge. The development</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees are scarce and field boundaries limited to low gorse hedges, post and wire fences or ditches.</li> <li>Extensive seaward views from slopes, prominent geological features of interest along cliffs.</li> </ul>	<p>category would severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>development category would severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>category would severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>category could severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>category could severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larger settlements of Banff, Macduff and Fraserburgh located next to harbours or on mouths of rivers.</li> <li>Small traditional, distinctive coastal settlements and fishing villages such as Crovie and Pennan crammed at the base of cliffs.</li> <li>Simple network of local roads running parallel to the shore and farmsteads stand out in the almost tree-less landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Settlements in this landscape are particularly susceptible to being dominated by the very tall turbines of this development category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Settlements in this landscape are particularly susceptible to being dominated by the very tall turbines of this development category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Settlements in this landscape are particularly susceptible to being dominated by the very tall turbines of this development category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Settlements in this landscape could potentially be dominated by the turbine height of this development category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Settlements in this landscape have some susceptibility to being adversely impacted by this development category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A high quality landscape with significant proportion designated for nature conservation and traditional villages protected by Conservation Areas.</li> <li>The area is highly valued for its scenic qualities.</li> </ul>	<p>This landscape is highly susceptible to change from this development type which is likely to have a severely adverse impact on the quality of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of this SLA.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape is highly susceptible to change from this development type which is likely to have a severely adverse impact on the quality of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of this SLA.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape is notably susceptible to change from this development type which is likely to have a severely adverse impact on the quality of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of this SLA.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape is susceptible to change from this development type which is likely to have an adverse impact on the quality of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of this SLA.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape is susceptible to change from this development type which is likely to have an could impact on the quality of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of this SLA.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backdrop to small traditional settlements such as such as Crovie and Pennan, and in the separation of settlements.</li> </ul>	<p>The very tall turbines of this development type would introduce a notably intrusive artificial vertical structure likely to be highly visible from the</p>	<p>The very tall turbines of this development type would introduce a notably intrusive artificial vertical structure likely to</p>	<p>The tall turbines of this development type would introduce a notably intrusive artificial vertical structure likely to be highly</p>	<p>The turbines of this development type would introduce an intrusive artificial vertical structure likely to be visible</p>	<p>The turbines of this development type would introduce an intrusive artificial vertical structure likely to be visible from the adjacent</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This LCT continues the <i>Cliffs and Rocky Coast – Moray &amp; Nairn</i> and overlooks the Moray Firth.</li> <li>A rim of slightly higher ground contains the hinterland of the <i>Gently Undulating Coastal Farmland</i> LCT, but giving and overall impression of an open large scale landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>adjacent LCTs, and with significant visual impact on small traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>be highly visible from the adjacent LCTs, and with significant visual impact on small traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>visible from the adjacent LCTs, and with significant visual impact on small traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>from the adjacent LCTs, and with significant visual impact on small traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>LCTs, and with visual impact on small traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-Medium</b></p>
<p><b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b></p>					
<p><b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low number residential receptors and low numbers population travelling through.</li> <li>High number of visitors with areas of formal and informal recreation.</li> </ul>	<p>This development category would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>

Internal Visibility	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
	The development type would be significantly prominent and conspicuous within the LCT on account of its openness.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type would be significantly prominent and conspicuous within the LCT on account of its openness.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type would be significantly prominent and conspicuous within the LCT on account of its openness.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type would be prominent within the LCT on account of its openness.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type would be prominent within the LCT on account of its openness.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>
External Visibility	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide open views along the coastline in which larger structures would be prominent.</li> </ul>	This development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area beyond the LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	This development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area beyond the LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	This development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area beyond the LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	This development type could be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area beyond the LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The LCT has some potential to accommodate this development category without being widely and extensively visible from beyond the area of the LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b>
Overall rating visual sensitivity:	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-Medium</b>

3. LANDSCAPE VALUE					
Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The distinctive features of this LCT are recognised by the North Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area (SLA) designation. This emphasises the importance of the scenic qualities of this rugged coastal landscape with its traditional fishing villages, and high nature conservation, geological, and recreational value.</li> <li>Almost entire coastal edge classified as SSSI, Special Protection Area at Troup Head, important castles and houses such as at Pitsligo and Dundarg, some listed as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, many villages and towns listed as Conservation Areas, Duff House Historic Garden and Designed Landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would significantly adversely affect the qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would significantly affect the qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would significantly affect the qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would affect the qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would affect the qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this type is likely to intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas popular with visitors for formal/informal recreation, also used by local residential population. RSPB reserve at Troup Head, core paths including Aberdeen Coastal Path, rock climbing on cliffs, Coastal Tourist Route, Castle Trail and part of the North Sea Cycle Route.</li> <li>• Many locations of interest, including the film location for Local Hero at Pennan, many ruined castles and dramatic rugged coastline setting.</li> <li>• Windswept and open with panoramic views of the uninterrupted horizon.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  <b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM-LOW</b>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type: [11 - Fragmented Rocky Coast](#)**

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- This LCT comprises two stretches of coast - the former *Kincardine Cliffs* and part of *Cliffs of the North and South East Coasts* i.e. the stretch south of Peterhead. The other part is now LCT10 in Banff and Buchan.
- 2014 Study concluded 'no capacity' over 15m for 'base landscape capacity', in either of the former character areas.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An open, medium to large scale landscape with panoramic views over wide expanses of sea.</li> <li>• This character type is limited in extent and unique to the north east of Scotland.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape which forms a narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape which forms a narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would potentially dominate this landscape which forms a narrow strip close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could dominate the scale of this narrow strip of land close to the coast with steep rugged slopes and cliffs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Where there is gently undulating landform, the LCT has more potential to accommodate change without widespread adverse effects.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b></p>
Landform	Assessment:	Assessment:	Assessment: Large turbines	Assessment:	Assessment:

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steep, weathered rugged slopes and cliffs, with dramatic stacks and arches.</li> <li>Raised beaches are a common feature and give a stepped profile to the coastline. Cliffs slacken and feature increasing vegetation south of Stonehaven where softer rocks present a gentler edge</li> <li>The high headlands, sheer cliffs, occasional narrow inlets and sheltered bays along this rocky coastline quickly transition to rough grassland towards sloping and flat farmland above the coast.</li> </ul>	<p>This landscape type is highly susceptible to impact from the very tall turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate positively to the sensitivities of this landscape character type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape type is likely to be highly susceptible to impact from the turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate positively to the sensitivities of this landscape character type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape type is susceptible to impact from the turbine height of this development category. This development category would not relate positively to the sensitivities of this landscape character type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There may be some ability to accommodate this development category in parts where the sensitive coastal features are not subject to widespread or severe effects.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The LCT could potentially accommodate single and small groups of turbines in this development category without widespread adverse impact on sensitive coastal parts and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The steep rugged slopes and cliffs with its distinctive features quickly merge into fields which extend close to cliff tops, leaving only a very narrow band of mostly rough grass, or other natural cover e.g. rare patches of heath.</li> <li>Extensive seaward views from slopes, prominent geological features of interest along cliffs, very limited tree cover, particularly where there are sheltered inlets, and distinctive coastal settlements crammed at the base of cliffs.</li> </ul>	<p>Because the landscape comprises of a narrow strip, development would be in close proximity to this highly natural and distinctive coastal edge. The development type would severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Because the landscape comprises of a narrow strip, development would be in close proximity to this highly natural and distinctive coastal edge. The development type would severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Because the landscape comprises of a narrow strip, development would be in close proximity to this highly natural and distinctive coastal edge. The development type would severely diminish and disrupt the integrity of the distinctive coastal character with its unique elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Although turbines could potentially relate to the land cover pattern in limited locations where the landscape transitions to a larger, simpler pattern, this development type would disrupt the integrity of the coastal character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity High-medium</b></p>	<p>There may be opportunities for this LCT to accommodate this development type in locations where its elements and features are less susceptible to impact, and where the landscape transitions to a larger, simpler pattern.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settlements cluster on clifftops with older villages and harbours on raised beaches at the base of cliffs.</li> </ul>	<p>The small scale settlements, which are a key characteristic of this landscape, are susceptible to being</p>	<p>The small scale settlements, which are a key characteristic of this landscape, are susceptible</p>	<p>The small scale settlements, which are a key characteristic of this landscape, are susceptible to being</p>	<p>In very small parts, there is a slightly increased scope for this development category to be accommodated so</p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with turbine height. The landscape may be able to accommodate this development category in</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive development at the edge of coastal settlements such as Aberdeen and Stonehaven. Busy with the A90, A92 and main rail line.</li> <li>• Historic settlements located next to harbours or on mouths of rivers.</li> <li>• Network of local roads running parallel to the shore and farmsteads stand out in the almost tree-less landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>dominated by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>to being dominated by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>dominated by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>as to avoid impact on scale and setting in relation to settlement.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity High-med</b></p>	<p>parts, where the landform can provide screening, however this development typology is of a height that would visually dominate the setting and scale of small settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high quality landscape with significant proportion designated for nature conservation and traditional villages protected by Conservation Areas.</li> <li>• The area is highly valued for its scenic qualities and is largely covered by</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from this development category which is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes</p>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from this development category which is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the landscape and diminish the</p>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from this development category which is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the landscape and diminish the unique</p>	<p>The underlying integrity of this landscape is highly vulnerable. However some small parts the landscape may be less susceptible to change from this development category.</p>	<p>The underlying integrity of key landscape characteristics are sensitive to change from this development type. There may be some ability to accommodate this development category in some situations without causing severe and</p>

Special Landscape Area (SLA) designations.	of the SLA designations.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	unique qualifying attributes of the SLA designations.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	qualifying attributes of the SLA.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	widespread impact on the overall integrity of this landscape character type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape backdrop to small traditional settlements such as Findon, Muchalls and Catterline, and large towns such as Aberdeen and Stonehaven.</li> <li>The landscape transitions inland to the extensive, open farmland areas defined by the two Landscape Character Types: the <i>Coastal Agricultural Plain</i> in the north, and <i>Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills</i> to the south.</li> <li>The <i>Farmed Moorland Edge</i> LCT inland between Portlethen and</li> </ul>	<p>The narrowness of this character type increases sensitivity in terms of effects on adjoining landscapes. The very large size of turbine is highly likely to be highly visible from the adjacent coastal/farmed landscapes, and small traditional settlements are susceptible to the likely severe adverse impacts of this development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The narrowness of this character type increases sensitivity in terms of effects on adjoining landscapes. The very large size of turbine is highly likely to be highly visible from the adjacent coastal/farmed landscapes, and small traditional settlements are susceptible to the likely severe adverse impacts of this development type.</p>	<p>The narrowness of this character type increases sensitivity in terms of effects on adjoining landscapes. The large size of turbine is highly likely to be highly visible from the adjacent coastal/farmed landscapes, and small traditional settlements are susceptible to the likely severe adverse impacts of this development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The relative narrowness of this landscape character type area increases sensitivity in terms of visual effects on adjoining LCTs. The potential size of turbine in this category is likely to be visible from the adjacent coastal/farmed landscapes, and small traditional settlements are susceptible to the likely adverse impacts of this development type.</p>	<p>The development type may be accommodated in some situations where there is no widespread or severe impact on the landscape backdrop and the role of adjacent LCTs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

Stonehaven acts as a buffer between highland and lowland, with a rich and diverse character.		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		<b>Sensitivity rating: High-Medium</b>	
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. Visual amenity</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High number of residential receptors and main transport routes aligned close to the coast.</li> <li>Relatively high number of visitors with areas of formal and informal recreation.</li> </ul>	<p>This development category would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There may be scope to accommodate some change from this development category where development sites are not highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>There is more scope to accommodate change from this development type without widespread or severe impact on transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide open views along the coastline in which</li> </ul>	This development category would be	This development	This development category would be	This development category would be	This LCT is susceptible to this category of

larger structures would be prominent.	highly prominent within the LCT on account of its openness.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	category would be highly prominent within the LCT on account of its openness.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	highly prominent within the LCT on account of its openness. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	potentially prominent within the LCT on account of its openness. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	development on account of its openness, and a range of receptors within it are potentially impacted from the development category, but there is some scope to accommodate smaller turbines.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widely visible from surroundings and at a distance.</li> </ul>	This development category would be widely visible from surrounding LCTs across an extensive area and at a distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	This development category would be widely visible from surrounding LCTs across an extensive area and at some distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	This development category would be widely visible from surrounding LCTs across an extensive area and at some distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	This development category is potentially visible across an extensive area and at a distance, but the LCT may have some potential in places to accommodate some wind turbines from this category.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	This category of development is unlikely to be highly visible from surrounding LCTs.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>

3. Landscape value appraisal					
Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape is covered by two SLA designations - the Northeast Aberdeenshire Coast, and Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast.</li> <li>Large sections of the coastal edge classified as SSSI, important clifftop castles such as at Dunnottar, churches and archaeological remains, some listed as SAM, many villages and towns listed as Conservation Areas, and Green belt.</li> <li>Area is popular with visitors for formal/informal recreation, also used by local residential population, with many locations of interest, both historical and natural features such as the dramatic natural feature</li> </ul>	<p>This development category would significantly affect the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of this landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would significantly affect the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of this landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would significantly affect the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of this landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would significantly affect the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would potentially intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of this landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape has a limited potential to accommodate this development type in some situations without widespread or severe change.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

<p>of the Bullers of Buchan blowhole. Visitors to the RSPB reserve at Fowlsheugh, core paths such as the Aberdeen Coastal Path, Coastal Tourist Route, Castle Trail and part of the North Sea Cycle Route, Rock Climbing on cliffs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceptual qualities of windswept, rugged, open landscape with panoramic views of the uninterrupted horizon.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-Medium</b>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p> <p>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [12 - Beaches, Dunes and Links - Aberdeenshire](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Former landscape character areas – combines *Dunes and beaches from Fraserburgh to Peterhead*; and *Formartine Links and Dunes* – boundary change to north was up to Fraserburgh, now stops at Inverallochy.
- 2014 Study conclusions for ‘base landscape capacity’ identify no capacity for turbines over 30m, ‘low capacity’ for up to 30m.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An open, medium to large scale landscape with panoramic views over wide expanses of sea.</li> <li>• Expansive long beaches and open skies.</li> </ul>	<p>This category of development would excessively dominate the scale of the dunes and introduce a highly intrusive and artificial vertical structure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of development would excessively dominate the scale of the dunes and introduce a highly intrusive and artificial vertical structure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of development could excessively dominate the scale of the dunes and introduce a highly intrusive and artificial vertical structure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of development is likely to dominate the scale of the dunes and introduce a highly intrusive and artificial vertical structure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape has a potential to accommodate turbines of this scale in limited areas, but could have an adverse impact on this landscape character type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

		(125m-<200m)		(50-<80m)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous stretch of expansive sandy beaches back by extensive rolling dunes.</li> <li>• A complex landform within the rolling active dunes, contrasting with comparative solidity of landward dunes which provide a transition between land and sea.</li> <li>• Low lying landscape gently transitioning to pasture and marsh land, and very undulating coastal farmland further to the west.</li> </ul>	<p>Built infrastructure of this scale would significantly impact on the intricate and highly sensitive dune landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Built infrastructure of this scale would significantly impact on the intricate and highly sensitive dune landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Built infrastructure of this scale could significantly impact on the intricate and highly sensitive dune landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Built infrastructure of this scale is likely to significantly impact on the intricate and highly sensitive dune landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Built infrastructure of this scale could potentially have a significant adverse impact on the intricate and highly sensitive dune landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, wind sculpted seaward dunes merge with shifting sands to the east, whilst more solid landward.</li> <li>• Landscape becomes complex within the duneland itself.</li> </ul>	<p>This size of turbine would overwhelm the low lying, exposed nature of the landscape with few trees.</p> <p>This scale of development would significantly disrupt</p>	<p>This size of turbine would overwhelm the low lying, exposed nature of the landscape with few trees.</p> <p>This scale of development</p>	<p>This size of turbine is likely to overwhelm the low lying, exposed nature of the landscape with few trees.</p> <p>This scale of development</p>	<p>This size of turbine could overwhelm the low lying, exposed nature of the landscape with few trees.</p> <p>This scale of development</p>	<p>This size of turbine could potentially overwhelm the low lying, exposed nature of the landscape with few trees.</p> <p>This scale of development could significantly disrupt</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inland, the landscape becomes simple, transitioning to very undulating pastures with few field boundaries.</li> <li>• Few trees with vegetation limited to coastal grassland, moss and marram, although the long broadleaf shelterbelts of Rattray House and any occasional trees stand out.</li> <li>• The estuary of the River Ythan, the absence of tree cover, undeveloped area of natural coast at Forvie.</li> <li>• Loch of Strathbeg, the largest dune lake in Britain.</li> </ul>	<p>the integrity of the natural land cover and its distinctive character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>would significantly disrupt the integrity of the natural land cover and its distinctive character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>could significantly disrupt the integrity of the natural land cover and its distinctive character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>could significantly disrupt the integrity of the natural land cover and its distinctive character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the integrity of the natural land cover and its distinctive character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peterhead is the largest settlement in this LCT, elsewhere this landscape features a scattering of small settlements, with occasional farm buildings between, and often sited on subtly higher knolls.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the scale of small settlements and dispersed houses/farms set back from the coast, which are a key</p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the scale of small settlements and dispersed houses/farms set back from the</p>	<p>This typology is likely to excessively dominate the scale of small settlements and dispersed houses/farms set back from the</p>	<p>This typology could excessively dominate the scale of small settlements and dispersed houses/farms set back from the coast, which are a</p>	<p>This typology could overwhelm small farms, individual houses and small settlements, affecting their setting and the perceived scale of</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large industrial buildings and infrastructure on the flat hinterland of Rattray Head and the St Fergus Gas Terminal creating prominent features visible for miles.</li> <li>Lighthouses act as a focal point as do the radio masts at Blackhill.</li> <li>Coastal development increases closer to Aberdeen.</li> </ul>	<p>characteristic of this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>coast, which are a key characteristic of this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>coast, which are a key characteristic of this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>key characteristic of this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the built development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A high quality landscape with a significant area designated for nature conservation and landscape value. The LCT is highly valued for its scenic qualities and is partly designated as a Special Landscape Area.</li> <li>This area has small elements that are in poor condition.</li> </ul>	<p>This development category is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the LCT and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of the SLA designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of the SLA designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the LCT and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of the SLA designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The LCT is susceptible to change from this development category where it is likely to impact on the integrity of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of the SLA designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>This LCT is susceptible to change from this development category where it could impact on the integrity of the landscape and diminish the unique qualifying attributes of the SLA designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	Very large turbines (200m+)	Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	(80-<125m)	Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coast acts as the setting for Peterhead, and to the wider seascape.</li> <li>The coast acts as the setting for settlements such as Newburgh and Balmedie and it also acts as the wider setting to Aberdeen.</li> <li>Gradual transition to the adjacent vast hinterland of the <i>Coastal Agricultural Plain – Aberdeenshire</i> Landscape Character Type.</li> </ul>	<p>This very large size of turbine would be highly visible from the adjacent coastal farmed landscape. There are likely to be severe adverse impacts on settlements across this LCT and in the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This very large size of turbine would be highly visible from the adjacent coastal farmed landscape. There are likely to be severe adverse impacts on settlements across this LCT character type and in the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This very large size of turbine is likely to be highly visible from the adjacent coastal farmed landscape. There are likely to be severe adverse impacts on settlements across this LCT and in the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This very large size of turbine could be highly visible from the adjacent coastal farmed landscape. There are likely to be severe adverse impacts on settlements across this LCT and in the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The setting of small settlements are susceptible to visual intrusion from this typology which would be prominent in the low lying landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium number of residential receptors – lower from Fraserburgh to Peterhead, higher to the south.</li> </ul>	This development category would be highly visible from	This development category would be highly visible	This development category would be highly visible from main transport	This development type could be visible from main transport routes	There is more potential to accommodate change from this

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large travelling population along A90 in the south.</li> <li>Areas of formal and informal recreation.</li> </ul>	<p>main transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>from main transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>development category without widespread or severe impact on transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive views possible along the open, flat expanse of coast. Dunes and landform not of a scale to screen turbines.</li> </ul>	<p>This development category would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category is likely to be prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category could be prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly visible from surroundings and at a distance.</li> </ul>	<p>This development category would be widely visible from surroundings across</p>	<p>This development category would be widely visible from</p>	<p>This development category could be widely visible from surroundings across an</p>	<p>This development category could potentially be visible from surroundings</p>	<p>There is reduced susceptibility for a lower turbine height. This development category could</p>

	an extensive area and at some distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	surroundings across an extensive area and at some distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	extensive area and at some distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	across an extensive area and at a distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	potentially be visible from surroundings.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE APPRAISAL</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coast around the mouth of the Ythan Estuary is highly designated with SSSI, Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation, and is designated the Northeast Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area (SLA).</li> <li>Areas popular with visitors for formal/informal recreation, also used by local residential population. Visitors to the RSPB reserve at Forvie, Country Park, Core paths such as the Aberdeen</li> </ul>	Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Development of this scale is likely to highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Development of this scale could intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Development of this scale could intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>

<p>Coastal Path, Coastal Tourist Route and golf course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some locations of archaeological/ historic interest. There are nature reserves, and a Scheduled Ancient Monument at the ruined Slains Castle and Forvie Church, nearby villages and towns designated with Conservation Areas, and Greenbelt.</li> <li>Perceptual qualities of a windswept and open landscape with panoramic views of the uninterrupted horizon.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p> <p>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m) :</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type: [13 - Raised Beach Coast - Aberdeenshire](#)**

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Was formerly *Kincardine Links* Landscape Character Area. The LCT has similar boundaries.
- 2014 Study identified no ‘capacity’ above 30m high turbines for the ‘base landscape capacity’.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An open, medium to large scale landscape with panoramic views over wide expanses of sea. Unison between land and sea creates immense sense of openness and scale.</li> <li>• Distinctive raised beach platform landscape type with extensive coastal fringe. This type of landscape is limited in extent (geographically) in</li> </ul>	The landscape character type would be excessively dominated by this scale of turbine development given the relatively narrow strip of landscape close to the coast with extensive visibility. Turbines would be highly intrusive.	The landscape character type would be excessively dominated by this scale of turbine development given the relatively narrow strip of landscape close to the coast with extensive visibility. Turbines would be highly intrusive.	The landscape character type could be excessively dominated by this scale of turbine development given the relatively narrow strip of landscape close to the coast with extensive visibility. Turbines could be highly intrusive.	The landscape character type could potentially be dominated by this scale of turbine development given the relatively narrow strip of landscape close to the coast with extensive visibility. Turbines could be highly intrusive.	<p>In parts, this development type could be intrusive, highly visible, and detract from the experience of the landscape’s distinctive raised beaches, coastal fringe, and wide apron of gently rising farmland.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

the north east of Scotland.	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gently sloping with raised beaches from 50 to 600m wide, backed by sloping cliffs, with steeper cliffs south of St Cyrus.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would not relate to this landscape which is highly susceptible to change from built infrastructure of this scale on account of its topography and openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would not relate to this landscape which is highly susceptible to change from built infrastructure of this scale on account of its topography and openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology is unlikely to relate well to this landscape which is highly susceptible to change from built infrastructure of this scale on account of its topography and openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There may be some potential for this development type to relate to the landscape character type although it is susceptible to change from built infrastructure of this scale on account of its topography and openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Where there is gently undulating landform, the landscape has more potential to accommodate change without widespread adverse effects.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The raised beach landform, the absence of tree cover, traditional settlements.</li> <li>Simple with large fields running to the step of the</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the integrity of the landscape, and significantly detract from its distinctive coastal</p>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the integrity of the landscape, and significantly detract from its distinctive coastal</p>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the integrity of the landscape, and significantly detract from its distinctive</p>	<p>This landscape character type is highly sensitive to this scale of development. However there may be some potential</p>	<p>This landscape character type is highly sensitive to this scale of development. However there may be some potential to</p>

<p>raised beach, few field boundaries, areas of marsh and reed bed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide coastal fringe is distinctive.</li> </ul>	<p>character. Turbines would be highly visible and highly intrusive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>character. Turbines would be highly visible and highly intrusive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>coastal character. Turbines would be highly visible and highly intrusive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>to locate turbines of this height with this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>locate turbines of this height with this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Development</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well settled with villages located on farmland behind the coast, except St Cyrus which is set back from cliff edge.</li> <li>Historic fishing villages.</li> <li>Farms and caravan sites on exposed sites with sea views.</li> <li>The A92 bounds the southern part of the area.</li> </ul>	<p>This development type would affect the setting of settlements and overly dominate their scale.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development type would affect the setting of settlements and overly dominate their scale.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst the typology could affect the setting of settlements and overly dominate their scale, the landscape may be able to accommodate the development type in parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Whilst the typology could affect the setting of settlements and overly dominate their scale, the landscape may be able to accommodate the development type in parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type could dominate the setting and scale of small settlements, but the landscape may be able to accommodate the development type in parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of high quality landscape with</li> </ul>	The landscape is highly susceptible to	The landscape is highly susceptible to	The landscape is highly susceptible	The landscape is highly susceptible	The landscape is susceptible to change

<p>significant proportion designated for nature conservation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area is highly valued for its scenic qualities and is designated a Special Landscape Area.</li> <li>Atypical raised beach features which form an important scenic setting for the numerous coastal villages and towns.</li> </ul>	<p>change from the development type. Turbines of this height would severely diminish the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>change from the development type. Turbines of this height would severely diminish the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>to change from the development type. Turbines of this height could severely diminish the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>to change from the development type. Turbines of this height could severely diminish the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>from the development type. However, turbines of this height could potentially be accommodated in parts without adversely impacting the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Landscape Context</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coast acts as the setting for the settlements of Inverbervie and St Cyrus and in the wider context, as a setting for Montrose.</li> <li>The extensive, large scale and open farmland of the adjacent <i>Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills – Aberdeenshire</i> LCT with its smoothly rolling</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely detract from the sense of space and immense scale provided by sea views to the east, and open farmland rising gently to the west.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would severely detract from the sense of space and immense scale provided by sea views to the east, and open farmland rising gently to the west.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could severely detract from the sense of space and immense scale provided by sea views to the east, and open farmland rising gently to the west.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would potentially detract from the sense of space and immense scale provided by sea views to the east, and open farmland rising gently to the west.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst turbines of this height could detract from the sense of space and immense scale provided by sea views to the east, and open farmland rising gently to the west, there is potential to accommodate the development type in parts.</p>

ridges and shallow valleys.					<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity: High/Med/Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium number residential receptors but higher to the south in adjacent areas.</li> <li>• Some movement of population and visitors along A92 in the south.</li> <li>• Areas of formal and informal recreation.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type is likely to be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>The development type could be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>The development type could be highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive views possible along the open, relatively flat expanse of coast.</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially</p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially</p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially</p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially</p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially</p>

	impacted from the development type. Turbines of this height would be highly prominent and cause visual intrusion.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	impacted from the development type. Turbines of this height would be highly prominent and cause visual intrusion.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	impacted from the development type. Turbines of this height are likely to be highly prominent and cause visual intrusion.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	impacted from the development type. Turbines of this height could be highly prominent and cause visual intrusion.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	impacted from the development type. Turbines of this height may less be prominent in parts.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
External Visibility	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly visible from surroundings and at a distance.</li> <li>Openness and low relief of the terrain with lack of trees.</li> </ul>	The development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type could be visible from surroundings across an extensive area.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b>	There may be opportunities to accommodate the development type without widespread significant adverse impacts from a distance.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity: High/Med/Low</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE APPRAISAL</b>					

Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landscape is covered by the Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA designation.</li> <li>South sections of the coastal strip classified as SSSI, National Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area, some villages and towns listed as Conservation Areas.</li> <li>Areas popular with visitors for formal/informal recreation, also used by local residential population. Core paths such as the Aberdeen Coastal Path, Coastal Tourist Route and part of the North Sea Cycle Route.</li> <li>Locations of archaeological/ historic interest.</li> </ul>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this scale could highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this scale could intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst there may be some potential to accommodate change in small parts, the development type could intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceptual qualities of windswept, open landscape with panoramic views of the uninterrupted horizon.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [14 - Gently Undulating Coastal Farmland](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Two former Landscape Character Areas combined: *Western Coastal Farmland* and *Coastal Farmland East of Macduff*.
- 2014 Study ‘base landscape capacity’ identified ‘medium capacity’ for 80m-125m turbines on the Eastern side; ‘low capacity’ for 80-125m on western side.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to large, with sense of expansiveness on account of the open character of the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines have the potential to visually and physically (in terms of turbine size and related infrastructure) dominate the scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large/very large turbines have the potential to visually and physically (in terms of turbine size and related infrastructure) dominate the scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large turbines have the potential to visually and physically dominate the scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Medium/large turbines have the potential to have some visual and physical effect on the scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Small/medium turbines have the potential to have some visual effect on the scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
Landform	Assessment:	Assessment:	Assessment: Large turbines	Assessment:	Assessment:

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undulating between the coastal cliffs to the rising ground to the south.</li> <li>• Vast shallow basins, which create a broad sweeping plain, with infrequent, rounded hills such as Durn Hill and Hill of Culburnie forming subtle local landmarks.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines, due to their size, have the potential to dominate the landform related sensitivities of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large/very large turbines, due to their size, have the potential to dominate the landform related sensitivities of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large turbines, have the potential to dominate the landform sensitivities of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Medium/large turbines have the potential to have some impact on the landform related sensitivities of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Small/medium turbines may have the potential to have some impact on the landform related sensitivities of this LCT. Sensitivity is reduced where the backdrop of the land can accommodate the development to minimise impacts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grid of very large, simple arable fields with almost no tree cover and few field boundaries, gives a landscape pattern with few vertical features and combined with landform create a simple, subtle pattern.</li> <li>• Regularly spaced farms.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines have the potential to visually and physically (in terms of turbine size and related infrastructure) dominate the land cover features of this LCT.</p>	<p>Large/very large turbines have the potential to visually and physically (in terms of turbine size and related infrastructure) dominate the land cover features of this LCT.</p>	<p>Large turbines have the potential to dominate the land cover features of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>Medium/large turbines have the potential to have some visual dominance the land cover features of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b></p>	<p>Small/medium turbines may have the potential to have some visual dominance over the land cover features of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the west, the landscape is more wooded, with large blocks of conifer plantations which do not always follow the landform.</li> </ul>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>			
<b>Development</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and settlements potentially affected by this LCT include Banff and Macduff and villages such as Fordyce and Cornhill, frequent farmsteads with large scale buildings, the old airfield at Boyndie, a small section of the A98 and a network of small roads.</li> <li>Development lessens in the western part of the area.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines, by their size and known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have adverse visual impact on existing development in the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large/very large turbines, by their size and known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have adverse visual impact on existing development in the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large turbines, by their size and known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have adverse visual impact on existing development in the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Medium/large turbines, by their size and known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have some adverse visual impact on existing development in the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-high</b></p>	<p>Small/medium turbines, carry the potential to have some adverse visual impact on existing development in the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally well-maintained</li> </ul>	The quality element of this LCT has the	The quality element of this LCT has the	The quality element of the LCT has the potential to be	The quality element of this LCT has the potential to be	The quality element of this LCT has the potential to be

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensively managed farmland, some areas of poorer quality.</li> </ul>	<p>potential to be adversely affected by very large wind turbines due to the known potential extent of visual effects of the wind turbines, and site specific physical impact of this scale of development including related infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>potential to be adversely affected by large/very large wind turbines due to the known potential extent of visual effects of the wind turbines, and site specific physical impact of this scale of development including related infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>adversely affected by large wind turbines due to the known potential extent of visual effects of the wind turbines, and site specific physical impact of this scale of development including related infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>adversely affected by medium/large wind turbines due to the known potential extent of visual effects of the wind turbines.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>adversely affected by small/medium wind turbines due to the known potential extent of visual effects of the wind turbines.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Landscape Context</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes to the setting of towns such as Banff, Macduff and Portsoy, villages such as Gardenstown, and the valley of the Deveron, and the coast</li> <li>Low hills limit to a degree extent of inter-visibility from the wider area.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large sized wind turbines have the potential to significantly visually affect the landscape context of the LCT.</p>	<p>Large/very large sized wind turbines have the potential to significantly visually affect the landscape context of the LCT.</p>	<p>Large sized wind turbines have the potential to significantly visually affect the landscape context of the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Medium/large sized wind turbines might have the potential to significantly visually affect the landscape context of the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Small/medium sized wind turbines may have the potential to visually affect the landscape context of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear views available along the coastal strip.</li> </ul>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>			
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low to medium population of residential receptors adjacent / near.</li> <li>Visible from larger settlements and main roads – A98 and A95.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines, by their size and known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have adverse visual impact on existing infrastructure and residences etc. in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large/very large turbines, by their size and known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have adverse visual impact on existing infrastructure and residences etc. in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large turbines, by their size and known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have adverse visual impact on existing infrastructure and residences etc. in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Medium/large turbines, by their known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have some visual impact on existing infrastructure and residences etc. in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Small/medium turbines, by their known possible visual influence, carry the potential to have some visual impact on existing infrastructure and residences etc. in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views throughout the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines by their size and known</p>	<p>Large/ very large turbines by their size and known</p>	<p>Large turbines by their size and known potential visual</p>	<p>Medium/large turbines by their possible height and known potential</p>	<p>Small/medium turbines by their possible height and</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good views from higher points such as Knock Hill, Black Law and Durn Hill, but restricted in some areas by landform and woodlands.</li> <li>• Screening not large enough scale to contain views of large structures.</li> </ul>	<p>potential visual influence carry the potential to significantly affect internal views within this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>potential visual influence carry the potential to significantly affect internal views within this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>influence will have the potential to significantly affect internal views within this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>visual influence could significantly affect internal views within this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b></p>	<p>known potential visual influence may affect internal views within this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/ large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some views from external areas but low hills limit external visibility.</li> <li>• Quite visible from areas of population and transport corridors.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines by their size and known potential visual influence carry the potential to significantly affect external views into this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large/very large turbines by their size and known potential visual influence carry the potential to significantly affect external views into this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Large turbines by their size carry the potential to significantly affect external views into this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Medium/large turbines by their known potential visual influence carry the potential to significantly affect external views into this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Small/medium turbines by their known potential visual influence carry the potential to possibly visually affect external views into this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>

<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overlaps with two Special Landscape Area (SLAs) – the Aberdeenshire Coast and Deveron Valley.</li> <li>A SSSI at Heildside Moss, a small part of Historic Garden and Designed Landscape, conservation area at Fordyce and ancient woodland.</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population for formal/informal recreation, core paths, visitors on the Castle Trail.</li> <li>Some locations of cultural interest including historic buildings and the attractive ancient village and castle of Fordyce.</li> <li>Perceptual qualities include awareness of the sea nearby, particularly in the northernmost parts,</li> </ul>	<p>Wind turbines that can be classified as Very Large or bigger carry the visual potential to change the perception of landscape related designations and cultural value etc. Within the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Wind turbines that can be classified as Large/very large carry the visual potential to change the perception of landscape related designations and cultural value etc. Within the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Wind turbines that can be classified as large carry the visual potential to change the perception of landscape related designations and cultural value etc. Within the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Wind turbines that can be classified as medium/large carry the visual potential to change the perception of landscape related designations and cultural value etc. Within the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Wind turbines that can be classified as small/medium may have the visual potential to change the perception of landscape related designations especially in the vicinity of the proposed development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

although influence is lessened by blocks of coniferous woodland. It is a Landscape of variable interest with some areas attractive, well maintained, diverse and mature. Forming backdrop to valley and coastal areas.					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  <b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM- LOW</b>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [15 - Broad Ridges and Valleys](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Has similar boundaries to former Landscape Character Area *Sandstone Ridges and Valleys South of Troup*.
- 2014 Study conclusion for ‘base landscape capacity’ was ‘no capacity’ above 15m turbine height.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium, with some variation from broad to intimate scale.</li> </ul>	<p>This scale of development would overwhelm the landscape. There is intimate scale experienced within the valleys and dens of this LCT which heightens susceptibility to visual intrusion from the very tall height of this development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This scale of development would overwhelm the landscape. There is intimate scale experienced within the valleys and dens of this LCT which heightens susceptibility to visual intrusion from the very tall height of this development type.</p>	<p>The scale of LCT is sensitive to change from the development type, but with some potential to accommodate the development type in very limited parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There may be opportunities to accommodate change from the development type in parts. There is some variation in scale within this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>	<p>There is reduced susceptibility to impact from this typology, and there may be opportunities to accommodate change in parts. There is some variation in scale within this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>			
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bold and strongly moulded landform.</li> <li>• Distinctively mounded saddle landform of open hill tops and incised broad valleys, which are oversized for their watercourses such as at the Tore of Troup.</li> </ul>	<p>The distinctive landform is highly susceptible to change from the development type. Turbines of this height would excessively dominate the distinctive hills and ridges.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the hills and ridges, and disrupt the character of this distinctive landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would dominate the hills and ridges, and severely disrupt the character of this distinctive landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility of the landscape is reduced with turbine height. There may be some ability to accommodate the development type where turbines would not dominate the hills and ridges.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility of the landscape is reduced with turbine height. There may be some ability to accommodate the development type without widespread or severe impact on the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong landform with open moorland covered hilltops and on lower slopes native woodlands.</li> <li>• Small fields of rough grazing run to the tops of steep slopes and irregular blocks of</li> </ul>	<p>A subtly diverse LCT in terms of land cover, with its bare and exposed landscape a key characteristic that is sensitive to impact</p>	<p>A subtly diverse LCT in terms of land cover, with its bare and exposed landscape a key characteristic that is sensitive to impact from the</p>	<p>A subtly diverse LCT in terms of land cover, with its bare and exposed landscape a key characteristic that is sensitive to impact from the scale of</p>	<p>A subtly diverse LCT in terms of land cover that is has some sensitivity to the development type.</p>	<p>A subtly diverse LCT in terms of land cover with a degree of sensitivity to the development type.</p>

<p>coniferous woodland punctuate the landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locally rare open, bare and exposed moorland but with steep-sided wooded dens in a lowland landscape.</li> <li>Distinctive landform of rolling hills above the surrounding farmland, dropping to the valley floor of Tore Burn.</li> </ul>	<p>from the scale of the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>scale of the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development limited to the periphery of the valley with farms and steadings, main roads, telecommunication masts and the small planned village of New Aberdour.</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape is sensitive to the introduction of visual clutter from potential wind turbines in this predominantly moorland landscape. Turbines in this height category would excessively dominate.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is sensitive to the introduction of visual clutter from potential wind turbines in this predominantly moorland landscape. Turbines in this height category would excessively dominate.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is sensitive to the introduction of visual clutter from wind turbines in this moorland landscape. This height of turbine is likely to dominate but the landscape may be able to accommodate the development type in very small parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape is sensitive to the introduction of visual clutter from wind turbines in this moorland landscape. This height of turbine is likely to dominate but the landscape may be able to accommodate the development type without widespread or severe adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Susceptibility to impact is reduced with the height of turbines. The landscape has the potential to accommodate the development type without widespread or severe adverse impacts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>

				<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>	
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area of moorland and close to the sea with areas of native woodland maintained well with a high degree of integrity.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is sensitive to change from the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape has reduced susceptibility to change from development within this height category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protruding above the surrounding farmland so defining the edge of other landscape character types and the coast. Setting for some towns and villages and roads.</li> </ul>	<p>The distinctive landform is a key characteristic highly sensitive to change from the development type. Turbines of this height would excessively dominate the distinctive hills and</p>	<p>The distinctive landform is a key characteristic highly sensitive to change from the development type. Turbines of this height would excessively dominate the distinctive hills and</p>	<p>The distinctive landform is a key characteristic highly sensitive to change from the development type. Turbines of this height would excessively dominate the distinctive hills and</p>	<p>Turbines of this height are likely to dominate the distinctive hills and ridges which provide a backdrop to lowland and coastal areas, but there may be potential to</p>	<p>Turbines of this height have reduced likelihood of adversely impacting on the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b></p>

	ridges which provide a backdrop to lowland and coastal areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	ridges which provide a backdrop to lowland and coastal areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	ridges which provide a backdrop to lowland and coastal areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	accommodate the development type at the lower height band of this typology through sensitive siting.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low to moderate population of residential receptors adjacent/near.</li> <li>Medium movement of population through the landscape, and a high number of visitors to coastal settlements such as Gardenstown and Pennan and the Troup itself.</li> </ul>	Turbines of this size would be highly visible to the local population, those moving through the landscape, and people visiting surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines of this size would be highly visible to the local population, those moving through the landscape, and those people surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines of this size would be highly visible to the local population, those moving through the landscape, and people visiting surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines of this size are likely to be highly visible to the local population, those moving through the landscape, and people visiting surrounding areas. There may be some ability to accommodate the development type	There is reduced sensitivity with a lower turbine height. There may be opportunities to accommodate the development type without widespread or severe impact on the landscape experience for local populations and visitors.

				in very small parts.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views across the moorland hilltops.</li> <li>Views to the dramatic Tore of Troup.</li> <li>Views constrained by landform in the valley below.</li> </ul>	<p>This LCT is highly sensitive to visual intrusion from the development type. This large scale of turbine would introduce clutter, and diminish the scenic landscape composition of high moorland and wooded valleys.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This LCT is highly sensitive to visual intrusion from the development type. This large scale of turbine would introduce clutter, and diminish the scenic landscape composition of high moorland and wooded valleys.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This LCT is highly sensitive to visual intrusion from the development type. This large scale of turbine would introduce clutter, and diminish the scenic landscape composition of high moorland and wooded valleys.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There is identified sensitivity in this LCT with its views across the moorland hilltops, although views are contained by landform in the valley below.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There is identified sensitivity in this LCT with its views across the moorland hilltops, although views are contained by landform in the valley below.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hills are visible from areas of population such as Rosehearty and transport corridors.</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape provides a striking and exposed backdrop to surrounding lowland</p>	<p>The landscape provides a striking and exposed backdrop to surrounding</p>	<p>The landscape provides a striking and exposed backdrop to surrounding</p>	<p>There may be some opportunity in parts to accommodate the development type</p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced with turbine height. There may be some opportunity in parts to</p>

	and coastal stretches. The very tall turbines of this development type would introduce significant visual clutter.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	lowland and coastal stretches. The very tall turbines of this development type would introduce significant visual clutter.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	lowland and coastal stretches. The very tall turbines of this development type would introduce significant visual clutter.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	without extensive adverse impact, where visual effects are contained e.g. by landform.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	accommodate the development type without extensive adverse impact, where visual effects are contained e.g. by landform.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The North Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area (SLA) recognises the high scenic value of this landscape and its associated recreational use and contribution to nature conservation.</li> <li>A large part of the area including the native woodland in the Troup and moorland is listed as SSSI, with some SAMS and listed buildings.</li> </ul>	A distinctive and locally rare landscape, valued for its scenery, natural heritage and archaeology. The development type would severely diminish the recreational, community and cultural experience and prominence of this scenic,	A distinctive and locally rare landscape, valued for its scenery, natural heritage and archaeology. The development type would severely diminish the recreational, community and cultural experience and prominence of this scenic,	A distinctive and locally rare landscape, valued for its scenery, natural heritage and archaeology. The development type would significantly diminish the recreational, community and cultural experience and prominence of this scenic,	There may be opportunities to accommodate the development type in parts without significantly diminishing the landscape experience and scenic value. Sensitivity increases with turbine height within this category.	The landscape may be able to accommodate the development type in parts without significantly diminishing the landscape experience and scenic value.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas used by local residential population and visitors for formal/informal recreation, core paths and visitors on the Coastal Trail.</li> <li>• Some locations of cultural interest with archaeological/historic interest WWII camp, Cairns, Hillforts and Planned Village of New Aberdour.</li> <li>• Distinctive and locally rare landscape of moorland and den close to the sea. Distinctive backdrop seen from some settlements.</li> </ul>	landscape backdrop.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	landscape backdrop.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	landscape backdrop.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [16 - Coastal Farmland with Ridges and Valleys](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Former Landscape Character Area *North Eastern Coastal Farmland*, similar boundaries
- 2014 Study identified the ‘base landscape capacity’ as having ‘medium capacity’ for up to 125 high turbines.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to large scale</li> <li>• Strong sense of openness and space</li> </ul>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced on account of scale, and the relatively simple landform and land cover, with a generally open large field pattern occurring inland. However the typology would excessively dominate other land cover features of smaller scale which add diversity in the landscape. Significantly, the</p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced on account of scale, and the relatively simple landform and land cover, with a generally open large field pattern occurring inland. However the typology would excessively dominate other land cover features of smaller scale which add diversity in the landscape. Significantly, the</p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced on account of scale, and the relatively simple landform and land cover, with a generally open large field pattern occurring inland. However the typology would excessively dominate other land cover features of smaller scale which add diversity in the landscape. Significantly, the</p>	<p>Although this typology could relate to the scale of the landform, these very tall structures would dominate areas of habitation and settlement and other land cover features. If sited away from the coast and Mormond Hill, and more centrally placed in farmland, the</p>	<p>The typology could relate to low lying areas where habitation is sparser, although turbines of this size would still appear large in relation to buildings, shelterbelts, and to its subtle ridges which rarely rise above 100m, and to smaller scale rolling landform.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

	amplitude of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	amplitude and scale of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	amplitude and scale of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	development type could potentially be accommodated in the landscape.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open plateau of low lying, generally gently undulating farmland.</li> <li>Subtle ridges rarely rising over 100m, and broad shallow valleys.</li> <li>Pockets of slightly more complex landform in the Boyndie area.</li> <li>Mormond Hill to the south east forms a prominent back drop.</li> </ul>	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the typology would excessively dominate the landscape with its subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys, and would detract from the small areas of more complex rolling landform, and impact on the wider landscape towards the coast to which it	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the typology would excessively dominate the landscape with its subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys, and would detract from the small areas of more complex rolling landform, and impact on the wider landscape towards the coast to which it	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the typology would excessively dominate the landscape with its subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys, and would detract from the small areas of more complex rolling landform, and impact on the wider landscape towards the coast to which it	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the development type would detract from its subtle ridges and broad shall valleys and small areas of more complex rolling landform if sited on or nearby them. The amplitude	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although this typology would detract from its subtle ridges and broad shall valleys and small areas of more complex rolling landform if sited on or nearby them.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>

	is widely exposed. The amplitude of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	is widely exposed. The amplitude of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	is widely exposed. The amplitude of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small, neat undulating pastures closer to the coast, with larger fenced fields occurring inland.</li> <li>• Large-scale arable fields give way to higher ground cover of moss and moorland due to poorer soil. Here small blocks of coniferous woodland, small fields of rough pasture and occasional broadleaved trees create a more fragmented landscape of different textures.</li> <li>• Wooded policies of Boyndie to the west.</li> </ul>	Whilst susceptibility is reduced with a simple and generally open character of farmland, the development type would excessively dominate the landscape pattern, and overwhelm its land cover features that add intricacy and complexity such as wooded policies and more natural vegetation cover.	Whilst susceptibility is reduced with a simple and generally open character of farmland, the development type would excessively dominate the landscape pattern, and overwhelm its land cover features that add intricacy and complexity such as wooded policies and more natural vegetation cover.	Whilst susceptibility is reduced with a simple and generally open character of farmland, the development type would excessively dominate the landscape pattern, and overwhelm its land cover features that add intricacy and complexity such as wooded policies and more natural vegetation cover.	This typology could relate to the simple and generally open character of farmland although policy features and more natural vegetation cover would be more sensitive.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	This typology could relate to the simple and generally open character of farmland although policy features and more natural vegetation cover would be more sensitive.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moss and rough grassland in broader basins.</li> </ul>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Development</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The edge of Fraserburgh, minor settlements, widely scattered small farmsteadings and gravel quarries.</li> <li>Main roads, masts and other communication infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>Although settlement and habitation is widely dispersed, the development type would overly dominate the setting of minor settlements, farmsteadings and houses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Although settlement and habitation is widely dispersed, the development type would overly dominate the setting of minor settlements, farmsteadings and houses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Although settlement and habitation is widely dispersed, the development type would overly dominate the setting of minor settlements, farmsteadings and houses. infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Although settlement and habitation is widely dispersed, the development type would overly dominate the setting of minor settlements, farmsteadings and houses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type would dominate the setting of small settlements, farmsteads and houses if sited nearby. The typology could accentuate industrial character and clutter in parts of this landscape. Single turbines towards the lower height band of the typology and closely related to industrial development would have a better scale relationship to such buildings and would minimise any clutter of disparate</p>

					elements in this landscape.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of well managed farmland at the coast and poorer quality moorland inland where blocks of coniferous woodland have eroded the character.</li> <li>• Derelict farmsteads and drystone dykes together with unrestored gravel pits give an air of dereliction in some locations.</li> </ul>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases sensitivity to the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases sensitivity to the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases sensitivity to the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which increases sensitivity to the development type, which may potentially be accommodated in parts of the landscape with poorer quality land.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type is less likely to have a significant effect if well sited. Gently undulating land may offer scope for siting small turbines where they do not detract from more complex land features. The smallest size of turbine would have the least potential impact</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

Landscape Context	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A transition between the high sandstone ridges above the Tore of Troup and the flatter coastal plain.</li> <li>Contributes to the setting of the Fraserburgh, minor settlements, and neighbouring Landscape Character Types.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would significantly erode the transitional role of the landscape extending from the high ridges to the coastal plain. The development type would erode the coastal farmland character with its elements of moorland, and impact on the setting it provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would significantly erode the transitional role of the landscape extending from the high ridges to the coastal plain. The development type would erode the coastal farmland character with its elements of moorland, and impact on the setting it provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would significantly erode the transitional role of the landscape extending from the high ridges to the coastal plain. The development type would erode the coastal farmland character with its elements of moorland, and impact on the setting it provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would erode the transitional role of the landscape extending from the high ridges to the coastal plain. The development type would erode the coastal farmland character with its elements of moorland, and impact on the setting it provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There would be decreased sensitivity to this typology being sited within this extensive landscape and avoiding significant impact on adjoining landscapes. Turbines of this size could also still detract from key landmark features if sited in close proximity to small settlements, houses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High population of residential receptors adjacent/ near.</li> <li>Medium/large travelling population.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There is more scope to accommodate change from this development type without widespread or severe impact on transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Internal Visibility</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views throughout the area.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially impacted from the development type, but there is some scope to accommodate smaller turbines where they can relate to the landform or landscape</p>

					elements and features.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quite visible from areas of population and transport corridors.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be widely visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There is reduced susceptibility for a lower turbine height.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development is unlikely to be visible from surrounding areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The North Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area is in close proximity/partly overlaps.</li> <li>Special Area of Conservation and SSSI at Turclossie Moss,</li> </ul>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the</p>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape,</p>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape,</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced with the typology which could be sited to have less of an impact on perceptual</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced with the development type which could be sited to have less of an impact on perceptual qualities</p>

<p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments, small areas of Ancient woodland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors on the Coastal Trail.</li> <li>• Some locations of cultural interest including listed buildings.</li> <li>• Perceptual qualities relate to a strong sense of proximity to the highly scenic, rugged north coast, and the landscape acts as a backdrop to coastal areas.</li> </ul>	<p>landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>qualities relating to proximity to the coast, but the typology could still dominate and impact on areas of cultural, community or recreational interest.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>relating to proximity to the coast, and sited away from areas of cultural, community or recreational interest.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape value:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>	<p><b>Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p> <p><b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b></p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM-LOW</b></p>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [17 Coastal Agricultural Plain - Aberdeenshire](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- The LCT combines two former Landscape Character Areas: *Formartine Lowlands* and *Eastern Coastal Agricultural Plain*.
- 2014 Study ‘base landscape capacity’ conclusion: low & medium capacity for up to 125m turbine height.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, open and extensive.</li> </ul>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced on account of scale, and the relatively simple landform and land cover, with a generally open large field pattern. However the typology would excessively dominate other land cover features of smaller scale which add diversity in the landscape.</p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced on account of scale, and the relatively simple landform and land cover, with a generally open large field pattern. However the typology would excessively dominate other land cover features of smaller scale which add diversity in the landscape. Prominent landmark</p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced on account of scale, and the relatively simple landform and land cover, with a generally open large field pattern. However the typology would excessively dominate other land cover features of smaller scale which add diversity in the landscape. Prominent</p>	<p>Although this typology could relate to the scale of the landform, these very tall structures would dominate areas of habitation and settlement and other land cover features. If sited away from the coastal strip, Mormond Hill, and Aberdeen City/greenbelt to be more centrally</p>	<p>The typology could relate to low lying areas where habitation is sparser, although turbines of this size would still appear large in relation to buildings, shelterbelts, and to its subtle ridges which rarely rise above 60m, and to smaller scale rolling landform.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

	Prominent landmark features of Mormond Hill with its unique hillside figures, would be significantly compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	features of Mormond Hill with its unique hillside figures, would be significantly compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	landmark features of Mormond Hill with its unique hillside figures, would be significantly compromised by the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	placed in farmland to reduce dominance, the development type could potentially be accommodated in the landscape in small parts.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gently undulating topography and uniformly low lying plateau, rising gently to higher ground in the west.</li> <li>• Low lying subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys.</li> <li>• An open, sweeping landform, with Mormond Hill a local landmark.</li> </ul>	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the typology would excessively dominate the landscape with its subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys, and impact on the wider landscape	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the typology would excessively dominate the landscape with its subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys, and impact on the wider landscape towards the coast to which it	The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the development type would detract from the landscape's subtle ridges and broad shall valleys if sited on or nearby them. On account of the extent and	Reduced turbine size in this simple, gently undulating landform reduces susceptibility, although the development type would detract from the landscape's subtle ridges and broad shall valleys if sited on or nearby them in this very low lying landscape. On account of the extent and scale of	Reduced turbine size in this simple, gently undulating landform reduces susceptibility, although the development type would detract from the landscape's subtle ridges and broad shall valleys if sited on or nearby them in this very low lying landscape. On account of the extent and scale of the landscape, there

	<p>towards the coast to which it is widely exposed. The amplitude and prominence of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>is widely exposed. The amplitude and prominence of Mormond Hill would be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>scale of the landscape, there is potential for the typology to be accommodated in a location that would avoid compromising the amplitude and prominence of Mormond Hill.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>the landscape, there is potential for the typology to be accommodated in a location that would avoid compromising the amplitude and prominence of Mormond Hill.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>is potential for the typology to be accommodated in a location that would avoid compromising the amplitude and prominence of Mormond Hill.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open farmland and large scale geometric fields with post and wire fencing.</li> <li>Generally sparsely wooded and few field boundaries, gives a landscape with few vertical features overall, and combined with landform create a simple pattern.</li> <li>Arable farmland gives way to occasional but extensive boggy lands around various</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst susceptibility is reduced with a simple and generally open character of farmland, the development type would excessively dominate the landscape pattern, and overwhelm its land cover features that add</p>	<p>Whilst susceptibility is reduced with a simple and generally open character of farmland, the development type would excessively dominate the landscape pattern, and overwhelm its land cover features that add intricacy and complexity such</p>	<p>Whilst susceptibility is reduced with a simple and generally open character of farmland, the development type would excessively dominate the landscape pattern, and overwhelm its land cover features that add intricacy and complexity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the simple and generally open character of farmland although the more natural vegetation cover would be more sensitive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>This typology could relate to the simple and generally open character of farmland although the more natural vegetation cover would be more sensitive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

<p>mosses frequently planted with medium-sized conifer plantations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where woodland does occur it is prominent.</li> <li>• Mormond Hill is a prominent local landmark feature to the north.</li> </ul>	<p>intricacy and complexity such as its limited wooded areas and boggy lands with mosses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>as its limited wooded areas and boggy lands with mosses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>such as its limited wooded areas and boggy lands with mosses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>		
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively large compact settlements such as Ellon, Pitmiddon, Newmachar and Oldmeldrum together with a high number of large farms with modern storage buildings.</li> <li>• Numerous highly visible pylon lines and main roads such as the A90, telecommunication masts, wind turbines and roads.</li> <li>• The undulating landform has a regular pattern of settlements and farmsteadings, together with</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of such large turbines would significantly impact on this well settled landscape. The development type would be significantly larger than existing development in this open, low lying landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of such large turbines would significantly impact on this well settled landscape. The development type would be significantly larger than existing development in this open, low lying landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of such large turbines would significantly impact on this well settled landscape. The development type would be significantly larger than existing development in this open, low lying landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced with turbine height, but there could be effects from inter-visibility in this open, low lying landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type could dominate the setting of small settlements, farmsteads and houses if sited nearby. The typology could accentuate industrial character and clutter in parts of this landscape. Single turbines towards the lower height band of the typology and closely related to industrial development could</p>

<p>main roads, pylon lines, transmission masts, old airfields, wind turbines and the gas terminal at St Fergus.</p>					<p>have a better scale relationship to such buildings and would minimise any clutter of disparate elements in this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensively managed farmland, some estates.</li> <li>Dilapidated stone walls in some parts.</li> </ul>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases sensitivity to the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases sensitivity to the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases sensitivity to the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>In relation to the quality of the landscape due to the scale of this LCT there is some potential for development of this scale, however if the valued landscape quality is to be suitably conserved The potential for this category of development is limited in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced where there is dereliction, and the development type may present opportunities to compensate for impacts. However, overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

Landscape Context	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An undulating, plateau rising above coastal areas, and although low lying it provides a setting for the coast, with clear views available along the coastal strip.</li> <li>Contributes to the setting of Peterhead, Fraserburgh and villages such as Cruden Bay, Longside and Hatton. Backdrop to the coast.</li> <li>Setting for towns such as Ellon, Pitmiddon, Newmachar and Oldmeldrum. Part of the wider setting for Aberdeen.</li> </ul>	<p>The extensiveness character of this landscape type could potentially limit impact on surrounding landscapes, however the very tall turbines of this typology are likely to cause significant visual distraction and visually dominate views with its high inter-visibility with the coast.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The extensiveness character of this landscape type could potentially limit impact on surrounding landscapes, however the very tall turbines of this typology are likely to cause significant visual distraction and visually dominate views with its high inter-visibility with the coast.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with the extensive scale of the landscape, and if turbines are located in central areas of the farmland. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening from settlements and Mormond Hill, and where there is high inter-visibility with the coast.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with the extensive scale of the landscape, and if turbines are located in central areas of the farmland. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening from settlements and Mormond Hill, and where there is high inter-visibility with the coast.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with turbine size, and the large scale landscape could potentially accommodate the development type where sited to minimise visual clutter and where small settlements would not be dwarfed by the turbines. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening from settlements, Mormond Hill and the coast.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>
<p><b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b></p>					

Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High population of residential receptors with high movement of population through the landscape and high number of visitors walking the Formartine &amp; Buchan Way, visiting HGDL and cycling the national cycle route.</li> <li>High usage of A952 and A90.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas unless site centrally in the farmland.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There is more scope to accommodate change from this development type without widespread or severe impact on transport routes and settlement areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
Internal Visibility	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views throughout the area.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within this open landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within this open landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within this open landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially impacted from the development type, but there is some scope to accommodate smaller turbines</p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially impacted from the development type, but there is some scope to accommodate smaller turbines</p>

				where they can relate to the landform, landscape elements and features such as woodland blocks, or farm buildings.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	where they can relate to the landform, landscape elements and features such as woodland blocks, or farm buildings.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from areas of population and transport corridors and the city of Aberdeen, but broadness of the plain and lack of surrounding high ground limits its external visibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines of this height would be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height would be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height would be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance but with greater potential in small parts to site turbines within this extensive landscape to limit external visibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height could be visible from surroundings but with greater potential for particular areas to site turbines within this extensive landscape to limit external visibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>The development type at the lower end of the height range is less likely to be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance, and there is potential to site turbines within this extensive landscape limit external visibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>

<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extending almost the full extent of the adjacent eastern coast lies the Northeast Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area (SLA) designation.</li> <li>Areas of cultural and historic interest with Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes at Pitmedden (with views along the Bronie Burn valley to the north-east), Straloch, Keith Hall, Cairness House, Crimonmogate (which is also listed as a conservation area), conservation areas at Oldmeldrum and Kingseat, and SAMs.</li> <li>Special Protection Areas and SSSIs at Rora Moss, Moss of Cruden and Philorth Valley, SPA at Loch Strathbeg, Aberdeen Greenbelt along southern edge.</li> </ul>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced with the typology which could potentially be sited to have less of an impact on perceptual qualities relating to proximity to the coast, but the typology could still dominate and impact on areas of cultural, community or recreational interest.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced with the development type which could potentially be sited within this extensive landscape to have less of an impact on perceptual qualities relating to proximity to the coast, and sited away from areas of cultural, community or recreational interest.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths, visitors walking the Formartine &amp; Buchan Way, the Castle and Coastal Trails and cycling the National Cycle Network (North Sea Cycle Route).</li> <li>• Perceptual qualities of a highly modified farmed landscape with limited areas of naturalness with a strong sense of proximity to the coast and the area feels open and windswept.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  <b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b>

<b>Assessment Unit:</b>	<b>Landscape Character Type:</b> <a href="#">18 - Low Hills and Basins</a>
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Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- The LCT was formerly Landscape Character Area *Knock Hill and Aberchirder*: the old and new boundaries are similar.
- 2014 Study identified the ‘base landscape capacity’ as having ‘medium capacity’ for up to 80m height turbines.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small / medium scale</li> </ul>	<p>This category of wind energy development would dominate the perceived scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development would dominate the perceived scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development would dominate the perceived scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development could dominate the perceived scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development could dominate the perceived local scale of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low rolling hills, long ridges create a smooth undulating landform.</li> <li>• Knock Hill dominates the west of the area.</li> </ul>	<p>This category of wind energy development would have an overbearing effect on the perceived landform of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development would have an overbearing effect on the perceived landform of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development would have an overbearing effect on the perceived landform of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development has the potential to have an overbearing effect on the perceived landform of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development could have a dominant visual effect especially at a local level, on the perceived landform of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large arable fields with post and wire fences or gorse hedges with broadleaved shelterbelts.</li> <li>• Clumps of mature trees frame settlements. Long avenues of trees run along roads and fields to the east.</li> <li>• More of a moorland character in the west.</li> </ul>	<p>This category of wind energy development would have a dominant affect on the perceived land cover of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development would have a dominant affect on the perceived land cover of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development would have a dominant affect on the perceived land cover of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development would have a dominant affect on the perceived land cover of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development could have a dominant affect on the perceived land cover of this LCT especially at a more local level.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrequently scattered farms and steadings and the planned village of Aberchirder. Some telecommunication masts, wind turbines and a network of minor roads.</li> <li>• Rolling hills, large fields, and avenues of trees, planned village and Knock Hill.</li> </ul>	<p>In terms of development in this LCT, this category of wind energy development would dominate development in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>In terms of development in this LCT, this category of wind energy development would dominate development in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>In terms of development in this LCT, this category of wind energy development would dominate development in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>In terms of development in this LCT, this category of wind energy development could dominate development in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>	<p>In terms of development in this LCT, this category of wind energy development could dominate development in this LCT especially at a more local level.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>
<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally well-managed farmland.</li> </ul>	<p>In terms of this LCT's quality of landscape, this category of wind energy development would have a detrimental effect on the perceived quality of landscape in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>In terms of this LCT's quality of landscape, this category of wind energy development would have a detrimental effect on the perceived quality of landscape in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>In terms of this LCT's quality of landscape, this category of wind energy development would have a detrimental effect on the perceived quality of landscape in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>In terms of this LCT's quality of landscape, this category of wind energy development could have a detrimental effect on the perceived quality of landscape in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>In terms of this LCT's quality of landscape, this category of wind energy development could have a detrimental effect on the perceived quality of landscape in this LCT especially at a local level.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Landscape Context</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a setting for the shallow valley of the Deveron and a backdrop to Turriff.</li> <li>Setting for the village of Aberchirder.</li> <li>To the west, the landscape extends into Moray as the <i>Upland Farmland</i> LCT.</li> </ul>	<p>Regarding perceived landscape context this category of wind energy development would have an overbearing effect on the context of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Regarding perceived landscape context this category of wind energy development would have an overbearing effect on the context of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Regarding perceived landscape context this category of wind energy development would have an overbearing effect on the context of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Regarding perceived landscape context this category of wind energy development could have an overbearing effect on the context of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Regarding perceived landscape context this category of wind energy development may have an overbearing effect on the context of this LCT especially when experienced at a more local level.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium population of residential receptors and moderate travelling population.</li> </ul>	Regarding this LCT, and, settlements, routes and viewpoints for this category of wind energy development would have an adverse affect when	Regarding this LCT, settlements, and, routes and viewpoints for this category of wind energy development	Regarding this LCT, settlements, and, routes and viewpoints for this category of wind energy development would have an	Regarding this LCT, and, settlements routes and viewpoints for this category of wind energy development could have an adverse	Regarding this LCT, and, settlements routes and viewpoints for this category of wind energy development would have an adverse affect when

	seen from these receptors. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	would have an adverse affect when seen from these receptors. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	adverse affect when seen from these receptors. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	affect when seen from these receptors. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b>	seen from these receptors. <b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views constrained by the smoothly undulating landform at lower levels but more open from higher areas and panoramic from Knock Hill.</li> </ul>	The internal visibility of this LCT would be adversely affected by this category of wind energy development. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The internal visibility of this LCT would be adversely affected by this category of wind energy development. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The internal visibility of this LCT would be adversely affected by this category of wind energy development. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The internal visibility of this LCT could be adversely affected by this category of wind energy development. <b>Sensitivity rating: med</b>	With regards to internal visibility and this LCT, there is likely some potential for to establish this scale of wind energy development. <b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from transport corridors, the town of Turriff and nearby high ground.</li> </ul>	With regards to this category of wind energy development, this size of development will likely be seen	With regards to this category of wind energy development, this size of development	With regards to this category of wind energy development, this size of development	With regards to this category of wind energy development, this size of development could	With regards to this category of wind energy development, there is likely potential for this category of

	<p>from external transport corridors to the LCT, Turriff and nearby high ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>will likely be seen from external transport corridors to the LCT, Turriff and nearby high ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>could be seen from external transport corridors to the LCT, Turriff and nearby high ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>be seen from external transport corridors to the LCT, Turriff and nearby high ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b></p>	<p>development with regards to potential visual effects on external transport corridors etc.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>3. Landscape value appraisal</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSSI at Moss of Crombie and AWI.</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors on the Castle Trail.</li> <li>Some locations of interest including historic buildings.</li> </ul>	<p>With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value this category of wind turbine development will likely have an adverse visual impact on such features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value this category of wind turbine development will likely have an adverse visual impact on such features.</p>	<p>With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value this category of wind turbine development will likely have an adverse visual impact on such features.</p>	<p>With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value this category of wind turbine development will likely have an adverse visual impact on such features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value there is some potential for this category of wind turbine development to be accommodated in some parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A highly modified farmed landscape with limited areas of naturalness.</li> </ul>		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b> (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+): HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125&lt;200m): HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m): HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m): MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m): MEDIUM-LOW</b>

<b>Assessment Unit:</b>	<b>Landscape Character Type:</b> <a href="#">19 Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills</a>
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Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- The LCT was formerly two Landscape Character Areas combined: *Northern Rolling Lowlands* and *Upland Ridges South of the Deveron*.
- 2014 Study conclusion for ‘underlying base landscape capacity’ was ‘low’ / ‘med’ ‘capacity’ for up to 125m high turbines.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>
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<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
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Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large with small scale elements.</li> <li>• Has open character and long views.</li> </ul>	The very tall turbines of this typology would easily visually dominate the smaller scale hills, hill slopes and valley landform which are integral to the landscape character, distinguishing it from the more open plains of the adjacent landscapes.	The tall turbines of this typology would easily visually dominate the smaller scale hills, hill slopes and valley landform of this LCT, which are integral to the landscape character, distinguishing it from the more open plains of the adjacent landscapes.	The tall turbines of this typology would easily visually dominate the smaller scale hills, hill slopes and valley landform of this LCT, which are integral to the landscape character, distinguishing it from the more open plains of	The turbines of this typology could visually dominate the smaller scale hills, hill slopes and valley landform of this LCT, which are integral to the landscape character, distinguishing it from the more open plains of the adjacent landscapes.	The wind turbines of this typology could be visually significant in the smaller scale hills, hill slopes and valley landform of this LCT, which are integral to the landscape character, distinguishing it from the more open plains of the adjacent landscapes.

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	the adjacent landscapes.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple, large, smooth, rounded hills forming a rolling landform.</li> <li>Convex slopes and broad ridges above the river valleys of the Deveron, Ythan and their tributaries.</li> <li>Rounded hills are all of a similar height of between 200-300m, divided by occasional, insignificant water courses.</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst susceptibility to this scale of development is decreased with a simple, undulating landform, this wind turbine category would significantly disrupt the rhythmic quality of the rolling hills and ridges seen as successive undulating layers.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst susceptibility to this scale of development is decreased with a simple, undulating landform, this wind turbine category would significantly disrupt the rhythmic quality of the rolling hills and ridges seen as successive undulating layers.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst susceptibility to this scale of development is decreased with a simple, undulating landform, this wind turbine category would significantly disrupt the rhythmic quality of the rolling hills and ridges seen as successive undulating layers.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There is some potential for this category of wind energy development in this simple, undulating landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>There is potential for this category of wind energy development in this simple, undulating landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple land cover pattern of medium to large geometric fields with few boundaries.</li> <li>Woodland is sparse and more concentrated in the west, largely comprises geometric forests on hill sides.</li> <li>Small mixed woodland blocks stand out as simple patterns on smooth hill slopes, with long broadleaf and conifer shelterbelts commonly lining ridge tops, emphasising landform.</li> <li>Fields with cultivation frequently carried to edge of minor water bodies.</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst susceptibility is decreased with a simple land cover pattern, the very tall turbines of this typology would not relate to features such as field boundaries and woodland blocks. The development type would significantly diminish the integrity of the landscape with its distinctive undulating layers enhanced by its land cover pattern.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Wind turbines in this category of size would not relate positively to features such as field boundaries and woodland blocks. This development type would significantly diminish the integrity of the landscape with its distinctive undulating layers enhanced by its land cover pattern.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This wind turbine typology could potentially relate positively to the simple land cover pattern of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>This wind turbine typology would potentially relate positively to the simple land cover pattern of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b></p>	<p>There is potential for this category of wind energy development to relate positively to the simple land cover pattern of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-Low</b></p>
<b>Development</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered and infrequent farms and steadings nestled against hill slopes and dips in valleys.</li> </ul>	This scale of wind turbine development	This scale of wind turbine development would likely have an	This scale of wind turbine development	This scale of wind turbine development	There is likely potential for this scale of wind turbine

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development along the A96 corridor, farms, steadings, A-roads, minor roads, pylons, and telecommunications masts.</li> </ul>	<p>would likely have an adverse impact on the development element of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>adverse impact on the development element of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>would likely have an adverse impact on the development element of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>could have an adverse impact on the development element of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>development regarding general development and this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b></p>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well ordered and generally well managed farmland with some pockets of poorer quality.</li> </ul>	<p>Regarding landscape quality and this LCT there is no potential to locate wind turbines in this size category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Regarding landscape quality and this LCT there is no potential to locate wind turbines in this size category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Regarding landscape quality and this LCT there is no potential to locate wind turbines in this size category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Regarding landscape quality and this LCT there may be no potential to locate wind turbines in this size category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>Regarding landscape quality and this LCT there could be potential to locate wind turbines in this size category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backdrop to the settlements of Huntly, Inch and Oldmeldrum.</li> <li>Foreground to parts of the Grampian outliers, backdrop to</li> </ul>	<p>Regarding landscape context and this LCT there is no identified potential to</p>	<p>Regarding landscape context and this LCT there is no identified potential to establish</p>	<p>Regarding landscape context and this LCT there may be some</p>	<p>Regarding landscape context and this LCT there could be potential to establish wind</p>	<p>Regarding landscape context and this LCT there is potential to establish wind turbines in this size</p>

<p>the Deveron and Upper Ythan valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Its edges provides a setting for the shallow valley of the Deveron and Ythan and Turriff, it edge also part the broader setting of Fyvie Castle HGDL.</li> <li>• The sense of vast openness associated with this Landscape Character Type is accentuated by the adjacent and extensive <i>Undulating Agricultural Heartland</i> lying beyond the Ythan river valley to the east.</li> </ul>	<p>establish wind turbines in this size category in the area immediately out with this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>wind turbines in this size category in the area immediately out with this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>potential to establish wind turbines in this size category in the area immediately out with this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b></p>	<p>turbines in this size category in the area immediately outwith this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b></p>	<p>category in the area immediately out with this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low population of residential receptors, but higher number adjoining. High travelling population and moderate number of visitors.</li> <li>• Low population of residential receptors, fairly high number adjacent at Turriff. Low travelling</li> </ul>	<p>This scale of wind turbine development would likely have an adverse impact on the settlements, routes and viewpoints of this LCT.</p>	<p>This scale of wind turbine development would likely have an adverse impact on the settlements, routes and viewpoints of this LCT.</p>	<p>This scale of wind turbine development could have an adverse impact on the settlements, routes and viewpoints of this LCT.</p>	<p>There is likely some potential for this scale of wind turbine development and potential affects on the settlements, routes and</p>	<p>There is likely potential for this scale of wind turbine development, and potential affects on the settlements, routes and viewpoints of this LCT.</p>

population but main roads adjacent.	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	viewpoints of this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views from higher points throughout, varied at lower levels varied.</li> <li>The backdrop of the hills to the south and southwest give a visual 'edge' to the character type, containing views.</li> <li>The prominent profiles of Bennachie and Tap o'Noth rise in the distance.</li> </ul>	With regards to this category of wind turbine size and internal visibility within the LCT there is no potential for this scale of wind turbine. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	With regards to this category of wind turbine size and internal visibility within the LCT there is no potential for this scale of wind turbine. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	With regards to this category of wind turbine size and internal visibility within the LCT there is no potential for this scale of wind turbine. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	With regards to this category of wind turbine size and internal visibility within the LCT there may be potential for this size of wind turbine. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b>	With regards to this category of wind turbine size and internal visibility within the LCT there is some potential for this size of wind turbine. <b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from surrounding areas of high land.</li> <li>Visible from transport corridors, but broadness of the ridge landforms and lack of surrounding high ground limits its external visibility.</li> </ul>	Regarding external visibility and this LCT there is no identified potential to establish wind turbines in this size category in the area	Regarding external visibility and this LCT there is no identified potential to establish wind turbines in this size category in the area immediately out with this LCT.	Regarding external visibility and this LCT there might be potential to establish wind turbines in this size category in the area	Regarding external visibility and this LCT there could be potential to establish wind turbines in this size category in the area	Regarding external visibility and this LCT there is some potential to establish wind turbines in this size category in the area immediately out with this LCT.

	immediately out with this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	immediately outwith this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b>	immediately out with this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: Med-low</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designations and locations of cultural interest include Historic Garden and Designed Landscapes (Arbuthnott &amp; Glenberrie), SSSIs, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Ancient Woodland.</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors to historic landscapes and following the Castle Trail.</li> <li>Perceptual qualities of a well managed, farmed landscape, with a distinct sense of space and light heightened by the openness of the farmland.</li> </ul>	With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value of the LCT the underlying landscape sensitivity indicates there is no potential for this category of wind turbine on this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value of the LCT the underlying landscape sensitivity indicates there is no potential for this category of wind turbine on this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value of the LCT the underlying landscape sensitivity indicates there is no potential for this category of wind turbine on this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value of the LCT the underlying landscape sensitivity indicates there is little potential for this category of wind turbine on this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-med</b>	With regards to designations, community, cultural and perceptual value of the LCT, the underlying landscape sensitivity indicates there could be potential for this category of wind turbine on this LCT. <b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b>

Overall rating landscape value:	High	High	High	High - medium	Medium
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MED</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM-LOW</b>

<b>Assessment Unit:</b>	<b>Landscape Character Type:</b> <a href="#">20 Undulating Agricultural Heartland</a>
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Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- LCT has same boundaries as former Landscape Character Area *Agricultural Heartland*.
- 2014 Study ‘base landscape capacity’ conclusion was ‘medium’ capacity for up to 125m turbine height.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large in extent, and open</li> </ul>	<p>The small scale settlements and other land cover features would be excessively dominated by these very tall turbines. The amplitude of Mormond Hill is likely to be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The small scale settlements and other land cover features would be excessively dominated by these very tall turbines. The amplitude of Mormond Hill is likely to be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The small scale settlements and other land cover features would be excessively dominated by these very tall turbines. The amplitude of Mormond Hill is likely to be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology could potentially relate to the scale of the landscape, and there is less susceptibility in central areas of the farmland. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to, or lack of screening from, local settlements and Mormond Hill.</p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with turbine size, and the large scale landscape could potentially accommodate the development type where sited to minimise visual clutter and where small settlements would not be dwarfed by the turbines. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening</p>

				<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	from settlements and Mormond Hill.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gently undulating, rolling landform of low hills and ridges, with broad shallow valleys, but steeper ground in some places mainly along river valleys.</li> <li>Relief ranges between 100-190 metres.</li> <li>A broad plain with open views.</li> <li>Mormond Hill to the north east forms a prominent back drop.</li> </ul>	<p>The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the development type would detract from and excessively dominate the relief of low hills and slopes. The amplitude of Mormond Hill is likely to be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the development type would detract from and excessively dominate the relief of low hills and slopes. The amplitude of Mormond Hill is likely to be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the development type could detract from its subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening from settlements and Mormond Hill.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The generally simple, gently undulating landform of this character type reduces susceptibility, although the development type could detract from its subtle ridges and broad shallow valleys. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening from settlements and Mormond Hill.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with turbine size and in a landscape with a large and uniform field pattern. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening from settlements and Mormond Hill.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large arable fields with post and wire fences, with scattered broadleaved shelterbelts running along hill ridges and around farms.</li> <li>• Broad plain, occasional drystone dykes, planned villages and regular farmsteads.</li> <li>• Smaller scale fields with tumble down drystone dykes in some areas. Moorland occurs in pockets around Pitsligo.</li> <li>• Large conifer plantations occur more frequently in the north of the area. There are remnants of estate policies such as at Brocklay, Delgately and Craigston Castles.</li> <li>• Mormond Hill to the north east forms a prominent landmark feature.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would diminish the integrity and robustness of the pattern, and overwhelm elements and features that add intricacy and complexity. The amplitude of Mormond Hill is likely to be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would diminish the integrity and robustness of the pattern, and overwhelm elements and features that add intricacy and complexity. The amplitude of Mormond Hill is likely to be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology could potentially relate to the simple character of the farmland, although policy features, small scale fields and more natural vegetation cover would be more sensitive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>This typology could potentially relate to the simple character of the farmland, although policy features, small scale fields and more natural vegetation cover would be more sensitive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>This typology could potentially relate to the simple character of the farmland, although policy features, small scale fields and more natural vegetation cover would be more sensitive.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

Development	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No large towns, but the area is well settled with a number of villages such as New Deer, Strichen and Cumiestown, together with a large number of farms and steadings.</li> <li>Some pylon lines and telecommunication masts and a network of minor roads.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would excessively dominate the setting of minor settlements, farms and steadings.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would excessively dominate the setting of minor settlements, farms and steadings.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would overly dominate the setting of minor settlements, farms and steadings.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology could dominate the setting of minor settlements, farms and steadings. There is potential within the large scale landscape to accommodate the development type in parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with turbine size, however the typology is of sufficient size to potentially dwarf minor settlements, farms and steadings and introduce visual clutter.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
Quality	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally well-managed farmland.</li> <li>Some field boundaries are poorly maintained as are the remnants of estate polices.</li> </ul>	<p>Overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases sensitivity</p>	<p>Overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases</p>	<p>Overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which significantly increases</p>	<p>Overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which increases sensitivity to the</p>	<p>Overall this is an area of well managed farmland with a notable degree of integrity which increases sensitivity to the development type.</p>

	to the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	sensitivity to the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	sensitivity to the development type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	development type. Susceptibility may be reduced where there is dereliction.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	Susceptibility is reduced with turbine height, and where there is dereliction.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vast plain rising above coastal areas, it provides a setting for the shallow valley of the Deveron and a distant backdrop to the coastal plain.</li> <li>Setting for villages such as Strichen, New Deer and Cumiestown.</li> </ul>	The open, extensive character of this landscape type could potentially limit impact on surrounding landscapes, however the very tall turbines of this typology are likely to cause significant visual distraction and dominate views. Susceptibility is heightened where there is more inter-visibility with the coast, and the Deveron Valley.	The open, extensive character of this landscape type could potentially limit impact on surrounding landscapes, however the very tall turbines of this typology are likely to cause significant visual distraction and dominate views. Susceptibility is heightened where there is more inter-visibility with the	Susceptibility is potentially decreased with turbine height in relation to the extensive scale of this landscape. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to settlements and Mormond Hill.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	Susceptibility is potentially decreased with turbine height in relation to the extensive scale of this landscape. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to settlements and Mormond Hill.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	Susceptibility is decreased with turbine size, and the large scale landscape could potentially accommodate the development type where sited to minimise visual clutter and where small settlements would not be dwarfed by the turbines. Sensitivity is increased with close proximity to or lack of screening

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	coast, and the Deveron Valley.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>			from settlements and Mormond Hill.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate population of residential receptors – a well settled landscape.</li> <li>Low travelling population and visitors walking the Formartine &amp; Buchan Way and using the national cycle route (North Sea Cycle Route).</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would be highly visible from the numerous small settlements, larger villages, and frequently dispersed farms and steadings within this open landscape which would be excessively dominated by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would be highly visible from the numerous small settlements, larger villages, and frequently dispersed farms and steadings within this open landscape which would be excessively dominated by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This size of turbine could be highly visible from roads and settlement within this open landscape although there is likely to be increased opportunity to site this typology to minimise effects.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>This size of turbine could be visible from roads and settlement within this open landscape although there is likely to be increased opportunity to site this typology to minimise effects.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>This size of turbine could be visible from roads and settlement within this open landscape although there is likely to be increased scope to site this typology to minimise effects.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

Internal Visibility	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views throughout the area, views towards Mormond Hill in the east and down towards Bennachie.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could be prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could be prominent within the landscape on account of its openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There may be some scope to accommodate smaller turbines where they can relate to the landform or landscape elements and features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
External Visibility	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from transport corridors, but broadness of the plain and lack of surrounding high ground limits its external visibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst the lack of surrounding high ground may reduce relative visibility, the very tall height of this typology would be extensively visible across this open landscape into surrounding areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst the lack of surrounding high ground may reduce relative visibility, the very tall height of this typology would be extensively visible across this open landscape into surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Whilst the lack of surrounding high ground may reduce relative visibility, the typology would be highly visible from transport corridors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There is reduced susceptibility with turbine height in this extensive landscape with lack of prominence from surrounding areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>There is reduced susceptibility for this turbine height category in this extensive landscape, with a lack of prominence from surrounding areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>			
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the immediate north west lies the Deveron Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA) with its scenic, meandering river valley landscape.</li> <li>SSSIs to the south-west at Gight Woods and Windy Hills, Strichen a conservation area.</li> <li>The area is used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors to historic landscapes, Castle Trail and walking the Formartine &amp; Buchan Way and cycle the National Cycle Network (North Sea Cycle Route).</li> <li>Some locations of cultural interest including historic buildings, part of the Historic</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst there are fewer natural, cultural and historical designations and areas of community interest by comparison with other Landscape Character Types across Aberdeenshire, the very large scale of the typology would be highly intrusive in the landscape, and likely to change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst there are fewer natural, cultural and historical designations and areas of community interest by comparison with other Landscape Character Types across Aberdeenshire, the very large scale of the typology would be highly intrusive in the landscape, and likely to change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced with the typology which could be sited to have less of an impact on natural, cultural and historical designations and areas of community interest.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced with the typology which could be sited to have less of an impact on natural, cultural and historical designations and areas of community interest.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced with the development type which could be sited away from areas of natural, cultural, community or recreational interest.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

<p>Garden and Designed Landscape at Hatton Castle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceptual qualities of a highly modified farmed landscape with limited areas of naturalness.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p> <p>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM-LOW</b></p>

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- This LCT corresponds with former Landscape Character Area *Wooded Estates Around Old Deer*.
- 2014 Study concluded for 'base landscape capacity' that there is no capacity for turbines over 30m tall.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small scale, enclosed character</li> </ul>	<p>This wind turbine typology would impact on the generally small scale, contained nature of this character type. This size of turbine would excessively dominate the low relief of the landform and its small-scale features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This wind turbine typology would impact on the generally small scale, contained nature of this character type. This size of turbine would excessively dominate the low relief of the landform and its small-scale features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This wind turbine typology would impact on the generally small scale, contained nature of this character type. This size of turbine would excessively dominate the low relief of the landform and its small-scale features.</p>	<p>This wind turbine typology would impact on the generally small scale, contained nature of this character type. This size of turbine would excessively dominate the low relief of the landform and its small-scale features.</p>	<p>This wind turbine typology would have some impact on the generally small scale, contained nature of this character type. There is some potential for this category of wind turbine in the LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

			<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valley enclosed by gently rolling hills, in an open floodplain landscape.</li> <li>The subtly sloping river valley of the South Ugie Water is at its centre with lower farmed slopes.</li> <li>Hills rising between 120-148 m stand out above lower lying agricultural plains of adjacent Landscape Character Types.</li> <li>Subtle hill summits capped by mixed policy plantings which accentuate the containment of the valley.</li> </ul>	<p>The small scale landform is sensitive to the development type. Large turbines would disrupt the gently rolling nature of the landscape and diminish its integrity. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type without causing loss of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The small scale landform is sensitive to the development type. Large turbines would disrupt the gently rolling nature of the landscape and diminish its integrity. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type without causing loss of integrity.</p>	<p>The small scale landform is sensitive to the development type. Large turbines would disrupt the gently rolling nature of the landscape and diminish its integrity. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type without causing loss of integrity.</p>	<p>The small scale landform is sensitive to the development type. Medium/large turbines would disrupt the gently rolling nature of the landscape and diminish its integrity. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type without causing loss of integrity.</p>	<p>This small scale landform is sensitive to the development type. Small/medium turbines could disrupt the gently rolling nature of the landscape. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, could create challenge to accommodate this development type without causing loss of some landscape integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dominance of woodland cover an unusual feature in north east Aberdeenshire.</li> <li>• Hill summits capped by mixed policy plantings which accentuate the containment of the valley.</li> <li>• The old policy woodland around the estates of Aden and Pitfour create an enclosed sheltered character, with coniferous and broadleaved woodland well laid out along ridge lines, valley bottoms and on slopes.</li> <li>• Hedges and avenue planting create a strong pattern around the large fields.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would overwhelm landscape elements and features, causing significant intrusion. This contained, small scale landscape is sensitive to the development type. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type without causing loss of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would overwhelm landscape elements and features, causing significant intrusion. This contained, small scale landscape is sensitive to the development type. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type without causing loss of integrity.</p>	<p>The typology would overwhelm landscape elements and features, causing significant intrusion. This contained, small scale landscape is sensitive to the development type. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type</p>	<p>The typology could overwhelm landscape elements and features, causing significant intrusion. This contained, small scale landscape is sensitive to the development type. The inter-relatedness of landform with its landcover creating an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape centred around a river valley, would make it difficult to accommodate the development type</p>	<p>This category of wind turbine development has the potential to adversely affect this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodland, hedges, avenue trees, planned villages and regular farmsteads.</li> <li>The river valley of the South Ugie Water is the main feature, although the river itself is not visually significant.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>without causing loss of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>without causing loss of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A well-settled area with a number of planned villages such as Stuartfield, Mintlaw and Fetterangus, numerous farmsteads and manses.</li> <li>Little large built infrastructure overall, with a pylon line, main roads and a network of minor roads.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from this well settled and well managed landscape with its unique mix of planned settlements, farmsteads, and more prosperous manses and farmhouses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from this well settled and well managed landscape with its unique mix of planned settlements, farmsteads, and more prosperous manses and farmhouses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from this well settled and well managed landscape with its unique mix of planned settlements, farmsteads, and more prosperous manses and farmhouses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from this well settled and well managed landscape with its unique mix of planned settlements, farmsteads, and more prosperous manses and farmhouses.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development carries the potential to appear dominant from nearby infrastructure and settlements etc.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally well-managed woodland and farmland, of high integrity in places, with some areas where field boundaries and woodland have not been maintained.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, richly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, richly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, richly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development has the potential to adversely impact the perceived quality of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>This category of wind energy development may have the potential to adversely impact the perceived quality of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A setting for Deer Abbey and a distant backdrop to the coastal plain.</li> <li>Hills stand out above lower lying agricultural plains of adjacent Landscape Character Types.</li> <li>Setting for villages such as Maud, Mintlaw and Fetterangus.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear highly prominent, causing significant visual intrusion within the landscape and beyond an extensive area into its wider setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear highly prominent, causing significant visual intrusion within the landscape and beyond an extensive area into its wider setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear highly prominent, causing significant visual intrusion within the landscape and beyond an extensive area into its wider setting.</p>	<p>Wind turbines in this size category could have significant visual effect, as part of the context to this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-Medium</b></p>	<p>Wind turbines in this size category could have some visual effect, as part of the context to this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

			<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium population of residential receptors.</li> <li>• Low levels of population moving through, but high number of visitors walking the Formartine &amp; Buchan Way, visiting the Aden Country Park and using the national cycle route (North Sea Cycle Route).</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines in this size category could cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Introduction of wind turbines in this size category may cause significant visual intrusion. This could erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and have some impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views enclosed by woodland in many areas, but views open out in the south.</li> <li>Very limited local screening by landform, and trees but not large enough to screen large structures.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. Although views enclosed by woodland, the landform, trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large artificial structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. Although views enclosed by woodland, the landform, trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large artificial structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. Although views enclosed by woodland, the landform, trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large artificial structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines in this size category could cause significant visual intrusion. Although views generally enclosed by woodland, the landform, trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large artificial structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size category could cause notable visual intrusion. Although views generally enclosed by woodland, the landform, trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen larger artificial structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from transport corridors, and from the coastal farmland but lack of surrounding high ground limits its wider external visibility.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Whilst there is a limited external visibility to a degree, very large turbines of this typology would be extensively visible.</i></p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst there is a limited external visibility to a degree, very large turbines of this typology would be extensively visible.</p>	<p>Whilst there is a limited external visibility to a degree, very large turbines of this typology would be extensively visible.</p>	<p>Whilst there is limited external visibility, large turbines of this typology could be extensively visible.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Whilst there is limited external visibility, turbines of this typology have the potential to be visible in this LCT.</p>

		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE APPRAISAL</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Park and Conservation Area at Old Deer, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Ancient Woodland.</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors to country park and walking the FormaRtine &amp; Buchan Way and cycle the National Cycle Network (North Sea Cycle Route).</li> <li>Locations of cultural interest including the Old Kirk, Deer Abbey, historic buildings, planned villages, railway museum, conservation areas and observatory.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the landscape experience. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from its many historical, cultural and natural designations. There would also be significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the landscape experience. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from its many historical, cultural and natural designations. There would also be significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the landscape experience. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from its many historical, cultural and natural designations. There would also be significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would diminish the community, cultural and perceptual value of the landscape experience. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from its many historical, cultural and natural designations. There would also be significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p>	<p>This category of wind turbine development could diminish the cultural and recreational landscape value experience. There could be significant visual impact by detracting from the landscape's historical, cultural and natural designations. There could also be significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceptual qualities of an attractive mix of policy woodlands/estates and farmland creating a pastoral landscape.</li> </ul>				<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-Medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [22 - Broad Valley Lowlands - Aberdeenshire](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- The LCT has like-for-like boundaries of former Landscape Character Area *Howe of the Mearns*.
- 2014 Study ‘base landscape capacity’ conclusion was ‘low capacity’ for up to 50m tall turbines.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to large in extent and open in character.</li> <li>• Large field pattern.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the open character of the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion. The development type would erode the distinctive juxtaposition of the expansive, open, low lying farmed strath against the steep scarp of the Mounth to the north west.</p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the open character of the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion. The development type would erode the distinctive juxtaposition of the expansive, open, low lying farmed strath against the steep scarp of the Mounth to the north west.</p>	<p>This typology would dominate the open character of the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion. The development type would erode the distinctive juxtaposition of the expansive, open, low lying farmed strath against the steep scarp of the Mounth to the north west.</p>	<p>In this larger scale landscape the there may be opportunities to accommodate turbines within the height category without causing significant visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>	<p>In this larger scale landscape the there may be opportunities to accommodate turbines within the height category without causing visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The north-eastern extent of the Vale of Strathmore that runs from Perth &amp; Kinross, through Angus and terminates in southern Aberdeenshire.</li> <li>Expansive flat basin/broad valley landform emphasised by the dramatic steep moorland slopes of the Mounth. Behind this change in slope is the distinctive line of the Highland Boundary Fault.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual disruption across the open gentle undulating valley with its dramatic backdrop that define this landscape's character.</p> <p>This LCT is visible across an extensive area and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual disruption across the open gentle undulating valley with its dramatic backdrop that define this landscape's character.</p> <p>This LCT is visible across an extensive area and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual disruption across the open gentle undulating valley with its dramatic backdrop that define this landscape's character.</p> <p>This LCT is visible across an extensive area and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology could dominate the landscape and cause visual disruption. There may be some limited opportunities to accommodate the development type although this LCT is visible across an extensive area and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>This typology could cause visual disruption. There may be some limited opportunities to accommodate the development type although this LCT is visible across an extensive area and changes could be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A distinctive patchwork of large, intensively farmed open fields, in an array of colours.</li> <li>• Interspersed with small coniferous plantations, policy woodlands at the base of slopes, and pockets of scrubby birch along watercourses.</li> <li>• There are avenues of beech trees associated with estate walls.</li> </ul>	<p>The scale of the typology would significantly disrupt the integrity of the landscape and detract from its distinctive bold geometric patchwork field pattern, with seasonally changing colours.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The scale of the typology would significantly disrupt the integrity of the landscape and detract from its distinctive bold geometric patchwork field pattern, with seasonally changing colours.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There is limited scope to accommodate the development type in small areas where turbines can be sited to fit with the simple, large field pattern without causing visual distraction.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There may be some potential to accommodate the development type in small areas where turbines can be sited to fit with the simple, large field pattern without causing visual distraction.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>There may be potential to accommodate the development type without causing widespread or severe effects on the integrity of the distinctive field pattern that characterises this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Settlements such as Laurencekirk, Fettercairn and Edzell Woods, numerous farms with large outbuildings.</li> <li>• The A90, a network of minor roads, electricity lines and railways. Disused airfields.</li> </ul>	<p>Severe adverse impacts are likely to arise from the development type which would significantly compromise the character of the landscape and its backdrop setting for small settlements, villages and farms.</p>	<p>Severe adverse impacts are likely to arise from the development type which would significantly compromise the character of the landscape and its backdrop setting for small settlements, villages and farms.</p>	<p>There may be some potential to accommodate this typology in small areas where the development can be sited to avoid visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>There may be some potential to accommodate this typology in small areas where the development can be sited to avoid visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>There is some potential for the landscape to accommodate the typology where the development can be sited to avoid visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>			
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally well maintained farmland, with some distinctive high quality areas of policy woodland along the base of slopes close to Fettercairn.</li> <li>Frequent large agricultural sheds can detract from the overall character.</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely disrupt the integrity of the well settled landscape, and erode its distinctive coastal farmland character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely disrupt the integrity of the well settled landscape, and erode its distinctive coastal farmland character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There may be some limited potential to accommodate this category of turbine height in small areas where the development can be sited to avoid severe adverse impacts on the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There may be some scope to accommodate this category of turbine height in small areas where the development can be sited to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>There may be some scope to accommodate this category of turbine height in small areas where the development can be sited to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The broad valley of the Mearns (the “Howe”) provides a foreground to the Grampian outliers and the Highland Boundary fault.</li> <li>The landscape rises northwards to become the</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley and the foreground setting it provides. The development type would visually</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley and the foreground setting it provides. The development type</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley and the foreground setting it provides. The development</p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could dominate the broad valley and the foreground setting it provides. The development</p>	<p>The development type could visually intrude on the indivisible relationship the landscape has with the Mounth upland backdrop, and its</p>

<p><i>Summits and Plateaux – Aberdeenshire LCT.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intervisibility with adjacent <i>Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills – Aberdeenshire LCT.</i></li> <li>• Landscape setting for Laurencekirk, Fettercairn and Edzell Woods.</li> </ul>	<p>intrude on the indivisible relationship the landscape has with the Mounth upland backdrop, and its role as setting for local settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>would visually intrude on the indivisible relationship the landscape has with the Mounth upland backdrop, and its role as setting for local settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>type would visually intrude on the indivisible relationship the landscape has with the Mounth upland backdrop, and its role as setting for local settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>type could visually intrude on the indivisible relationship the landscape has with the Mounth upland backdrop, and its role as setting for local settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>role as setting for local settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints (‘receptors’)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate population of residential receptors.</li> <li>• Busy transport corridor, and moderate number of visitors.</li> </ul>	<p>Very tall turbines would be highly visible from settlements, roads, and to visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines within this height category would be highly visible from settlements, roads, and to visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could be highly visible from settlements, roads, and to visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could be highly visible from settlements, roads, and to visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could be highly visible from settlements, roads, and to visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

Internal Visibility	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- <50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views throughout the area, clearer from the upper slopes of the Howe.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion throughout the LCT and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion throughout the LCT and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion throughout the LCT and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines within this height category are likely to cause significant visual intrusion throughout the LCT and any change will be widely seen.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could cause visual intrusion. Changes may be widely seen in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
External Visibility	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- <50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from surrounding areas of high land.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion and erosion of character. This LCT is visible across an extensive area and any change will be widely seen.</p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion and erosion of character. This LCT is visible across an extensive area and any change will be widely seen.</p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual intrusion and erosion of character. This LCT is visible across an extensive area and</p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could cause significant visual intrusion and erosion of character. This LCT is visible across an extensive area and any change</p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could cause visual intrusion and erosion of character. This LCT is visible across an extensive area and changes could be widely seen.</p>

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	any change will be widely seen. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	will be widely seen. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations; community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partially covering the LCT to the northwest, lies the Braes of the Mearns Special Landscape Area (SLA).</li> <li>Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes (Fasque &amp; The Burn), Conservation Area at Fettercairn, Ancient Woodland, SSSI and scheduled monument/archaeological remains</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors using Castle Trail</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would excessively intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would severely detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would excessively intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would significantly detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p>	<p>The development type would significantly detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p>	<p>Whilst there may be some limited potential to accommodate turbines within this height, there is likely to be adverse impact on the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development could highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceptual qualities of a managed, farmed landscape but contrasting attractively with the rising ground of the Mounth above.</li> </ul>			<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	change how it is perceived.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  <b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b>

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- The LCT was previously four separate Landscape Character Areas - now one LCT across 3 different locations known as “Howe of Cromar”, “Insch Basin” and the “Howe of Alford”, and includes former “Cromar Farmlands”.
- 2014 Study conclusions for ‘base landscape capacity’ were:  
 For *Howe of Cromar, Cromar Farmlands*: no capacity for over 15m high turbines;  
 For *Howe of Alford and Insch Basin* - ‘low capacity’ for up to 50m high turbines.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to large, open.</li> </ul>	This development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors. There would be significant adverse impact on the large scale, open character of this landscape, which strongly contrasts with the	This development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors. There would be significant adverse impact on the large scale, open character of this	This development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors. There would be significant adverse impact on the large	This category of wind turbines could potentially fit into parts of the landscape where LVIA information indicates some could be installed without detracting from the overall	Small to medium size turbines can potentially fit into this LCT where they relate to the perceived sense of landscape scale, without detracting from the overall sense of openness

	<p>heather clad and forested ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>landscape, which strongly contrasts with the heather clad and forested ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>scale, open character of this landscape, which strongly contrasts with the heather clad and forested ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>sense of openness that characterises this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>that characterises this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A simple, wide sweeping, flat to gently undulating broad valley basin landform contained by undulating slopes.</li> <li>The undulating slopes rise to the higher surrounding and imposing backdrop of moorland ridges (<i>Outlying Hills and Ridges Landscape Character Type</i>).</li> <li>Flat and gently rolling farmland, with a chain of small conical hills such as</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape would be severely interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with the ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape would be severely interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with the ridges and hills</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape would be severely interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's indivisible</p>	<p>This development category could dominate the broad valley basin floors. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape could be interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with</p>	<p>This development category could dominate the broad valley basin floors of this LCT. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape could be interrupted, and wind energy development could compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with the ridges and hills of surrounding higher</p>

<p>Dunnideer, Hill of Flinder, Hill of Christ's Kirk, and Gallow Hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views to north and south to Bennachie and the Ridge of Foudland.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>relationship with the ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>ground at a more local level.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A predominantly pastoral landscape, with large improved pastures wrapped around the glacial hummocks.</li> <li>Large geometric fields, forming a colourful patchwork of arable and pastureland. Field boundaries mainly post and wire or sparse lines of broadleaved trees and hedges.</li> <li>Trees largely limited to shelterbelts, hilltop clump and beech avenues, although the field geometric pattern often emphasised by shelterbelts and conifer plantations.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely disrupt the pastoral character of the landscape. Whilst large geometric fields could potentially accommodate smaller turbines, very large turbines would significantly compromise the strong rural, 'highland fringe' character of this landscape, enhanced by its low key land cover, and interrupt the landscape's indivisible relationship with the contrasting ridges and</p>	<p>The development type would severely disrupt the pastoral character of the landscape. Whilst large geometric fields could potentially accommodate smaller turbines, very large turbines would significantly compromise the strong rural, 'highland fringe' character of this landscape, enhanced by its low key land cover, and interrupt the</p>	<p>The development type would severely disrupt the pastoral character of the landscape. Whilst large geometric fields could potentially accommodate smaller turbines, very large turbines would significantly compromise the strong rural, 'highland fringe' character of this landscape, enhanced by its low key land</p>	<p>This development category could disrupt the pastoral character of this LCT. Wind energy development could disrupt the 'highland fringe' character of this landscape and interrupt the lower lying landscape area's relationship with the contrasting ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p>	<p>This development category has the potential to disrupt the pastoral character of this LCT. Wind energy development in this category of size potentially could disrupt the 'highland fringe' character of this landscape and interrupt the lower lying landscape area's relationship with the contrasting ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground, at a more local level.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small but widespread broadleaf copses and conifer woodlands add diversity.</li> <li>• Clumps of Scots Pine and the backdrop of the higher land of the Cairngorms gives the Howe of Cromar a distinct 'highland fringe' character.</li> <li>• Mixed policy woodlands are a particular feature of the Howes of Alford and Cromar where they associate with the River Don and lower hill slopes.</li> <li>• The Inch Basin is less wooded, with a more open character, but with distinctive mature beech avenues and tree belts.</li> </ul>	<p>hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>landscape's indivisible relationship with the contrasting ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>cover, and interrupt the landscape's indivisible relationship with the contrasting ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively well settled, with a number of sizeable settlements and dispersed farmsteads throughout.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely compromise the rural character of the landscape with its richly patterned</p>	<p>The development type would severely compromise the rural character of the landscape with its richly patterned</p>	<p>The development type would severely compromise the rural character of the landscape with its richly</p>	<p>This development category could compromise the rural character of the landscape. This LCT may</p>	<p>This development category could compromise the rural character of the landscape. This LCT has some potential to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small village of Tarland features in the Howe of Cromar landscape which is otherwise largely characterised by scattered settlement and steadings, with concentrations on lower slopes.</li> <li>• In the vicinity of Howe of Cromar and to the west, there are small villages such as Logie Coldstone and Migvie, A-roads, a network of minor roads, pylons and telecommunications masts.</li> <li>• The village of Alford with River Don running through features in the Howe of Alford. Here A-roads cross through, together with a network of minor roads, and there is a small tourist railway line.</li> <li>• The settlements of Rhynie, Inch and Oldmeldrum lie in the Inch Basin, with farms studded evenly through the basin. Here the landscape is crossed by the A96, with the main Inverness to Aberdeen Railway line, pylon lines and a</li> </ul>	<p>farmed and settled basins.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>farmed and settled basins.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>patterned farmed and settled basins.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>have some potential to accommodate turbines of this scale. However the landscape is sensitive to erosion of character with its richly patterned farmed and settled basins.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>accommodate small to medium size wind turbines often associated with farm steadings etc. However, this LCT is susceptible to impact from wind energy development which could erode the character of these richly patterned farmed and settled basins that comprise this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
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network of minor roads. There is a distillery at Kennethmont.					
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally well-managed farmland, which has a high degree of integrity, with small areas of poorer quality.</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the well settled and managed farmed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the well settled and managed farmed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the well settled and managed farmed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This landscape is highly susceptible to change from this development type which is likely to severely impact on the integrity of the well settled and managed farmed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible to change from this development category which is likely to impact on the integrity of this well settled and managed farmed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Low</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinctive valley basins provide a foreground to the surrounding higher moorland ridges of the <i>Outlying Hills and Ridges</i> LCT, and the Cairngorm massif rising behind</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors and the foreground setting it provides. The gentle, undulating flow</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors and the foreground setting</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the broad valley basin floors and the foreground</p>	<p>This development category would dominate the broad valley basin floors and the foreground</p>	<p>This development category could dominate the broad valley basin floor and its foreground setting. The gentle, undulating flow of</p>

<p>as the setting for the Cairngorm National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a foreground to Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes including Castle Forbes, and setting for numerous towns and villages including Alford, Oldmeldrum, Inverurie, Inch and Rhynie.</li> </ul>	<p>of this landscape would be severely interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with the ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground, and the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>it provides. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape would be severely interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with the ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground, and the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>setting it provides. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape would be severely interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with the ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground, and the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>setting it provides. The gentle, undulating flow of this landscape could be severely interrupted, and the development would compromise the landscape's close relationship with the ridges and hills of surrounding higher ground, and The Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>this LCT could be interrupted, and the wind energy development category could compromise the landscape's indivisible relationship with surrounding ridges and hills.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>	<p><b>Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b></p>					
<p><b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate to high population of residential receptors.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible</p>	<p>The development type would be</p>	<p>The development type would be</p>	<p>This development</p>	<p>This development category could be</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low to moderate movement of population but high number of visitors in particular to Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, walkers on Bennachie, the iconic viewpoint the 'Queens View', and Cairngorms National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>from settlements and visitor / recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>highly visible from settlements and visitor / recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>highly visible from settlements and visitor / recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>category would be highly visible from settlements and visitor / recreational areas in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>visible from settlements and visitor / recreational areas in this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views throughout the area, clearer from the higher points (conical hills), and upper slopes, but varied at lower levels.</li> </ul>	<p>Development of this type / height would be highly prominent within the landscape, interrupting views throughout the area.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this type / height would be highly prominent within the landscape, interrupting views throughout the area.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this type / height would be highly prominent within the landscape, interrupting views throughout the area.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this type / height would be highly prominent within the landscape, interrupting views throughout the area.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Development of this wind turbine size category could be easily seen within the landscape, interrupting views throughout the area.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from surrounding areas of high land, including iconic</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be widely visible from surroundings across</p>	<p>The development type would be widely visible from surroundings</p>	<p>The development type would be widely visible from</p>	<p>The development type could be widely visible from</p>	<p>This development category type could be visible from</p>

Queens View, and the Cairngorm National Park.	an extensive area and at a distance, in particular from The Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	across an extensive area and at a distance, in particular from The Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance, in particular from The Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance, in particular from The Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	surroundings across the area.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proximity to Cairngorms National Park.</li> <li>Presence of four Special Landscape Areas - Bennachie SLA, Howe of Alford SLA, Upper Don Valley SLA and the Howe of Cromar SLA designations. These recognise the scenic qualities of the landscape and its importance to Aberdeenshire's identity.</li> </ul>	The development type would significantly detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and	The development type would significantly detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and	The development type would significantly detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and	The development type would significantly detract from the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the SLAs. Development of this scale would highly intrude on the recreational, community and	This category of wind energy development could significantly detract from the designations, community, cultural and perceptual value of this landscape. Development of this category could intrude on the recreational,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSSI, Ancient Woodland and scheduled monuments (including Hillforts on the conical hills above Inch, circles, carved stones and stone circles).</li> <li>• A large number of archaeological remains.</li> <li>• Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Country Park and areas used by local residential population as well as visitors for informal recreation, core paths and tourist trails.</li> <li>• Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors accessing the Cairngorms National Park.</li> <li>• Perceptual qualities are of a managed, farmed landscape but contrasting attractively with the surrounding moorland ridges and the heather covered bulk of the Cairngorm massif behind.</li> </ul>	<p>change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>community and cultural appreciation of this landscape, and alter how it is perceived</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape value:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>

<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p> <p>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>
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**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [24 - Coastal Farmed Ridges and Hills - Aberdeenshire](#)

Notes from Capacity Study 2014:

- The LCT broadly corresponds with former *Garvock and Glenbervie* Landscape Character Area, except for a slight boundary change to east – now further out to coast.
- 2014 Study concluded for ‘base landscape capacity’ there is no ‘low capacity’ up to 80m high turbines (‘medium capacity’ for up to 50m turbines).

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale, open, with long distance views.</li> <li>• Large fields of arable land and pasture</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual disruption to views across the smooth rolling flow of the land.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual disruption to views across the smooth rolling flow of the land.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There is potentially a slightly greater scope to accommodate this typology in small areas, where the development can be sited to fit with the ridges and hill slopes without</p>	<p>The perceived scale of landscape in this LCT has some potential for this category of wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape may present opportunities to accommodate change from this typology where the field pattern is large and uniform, where turbines can relate to buildings, and where visual clutter in the landscape can be avoided.</p>

			causing visual disharmony.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>		<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The character of the landscape stems essentially from the relief with its smooth, sweeping, rolling landform that draws the eye up and down the terrain.</li> <li>Areas of higher ground at Hill of Garvock and the higher ground at the base of the Mounth at Glenbervie</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual disruption to the smooth rolling flow of the land.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and cause significant visual disruption to the smooth rolling flow of the land.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There is a slightly greater scope to accommodate this typology in small areas, where the development can be sited to fit with the ridges and hill slopes without causing visual disharmony.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There is scope to accommodate this category of wind turbine in limited areas of the LCT, where the proposed development can be sited to fit with the local topography without potentially causing unacceptable visual impacts for key receptors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape may present opportunities to accommodate change from this typology where the field pattern is large and uniform, where turbines can relate to buildings, and where visual clutter in the landscape can be avoided.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bold geometric pattern of large, intensively farmed open fields, in an array of colours.</li> <li>• Few field boundaries, and the few coniferous plantations located on hilltops are a minor element.</li> <li>• Broadleaf woods and shelterbelts enhance the pattern in particular along the Bervie Water.</li> <li>• Rising slopes of the Mounth.</li> </ul>	<p>The scale of the typology would significantly disrupt the integrity of the landscape and detract from its distinctive bold geometric patchwork field pattern, with seasonally changing colours. The development type would compromise the open character of the landscape and cause significant visual disruption to views across the sweeping rolling land relief.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The scale of the typology would significantly disrupt the integrity of the landscape and detract from its distinctive bold geometric patchwork field pattern, with seasonally changing colours.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There may be a slightly greater scope to accommodate this typology in small areas where the development can be sited to fit with the simple, large field pattern without causing visual distraction.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There is some potential in the LCT to accommodate this size of development in relation to land cover features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape may present opportunities to accommodate change from this typology where the field pattern is large and uniform, where turbines can relate to buildings, and where visual clutter in the landscape can be avoided.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well settled landscape, villages such as Glenbervie and Arbuthnott. Numerous farms with large outbuildings, the A90, a network of minor roads.</li> <li>• Electricity lines and railways, telecommunications masts.</li> </ul>	<p>Severe adverse impacts are likely to arise from the development type which would significantly compromise the character of the landscape and its role</p>	<p>Severe adverse impacts are likely to arise from the development type which would significantly compromise the character of the landscape and its</p>	<p>There may be a slightly greater scope to accommodate this typology in small areas where the development can be sited</p>	<p>There may be a greater scope to accommodate this category of wind turbine in areas where the development could be sited where</p>	<p>The landscape may present opportunities to accommodate change from this typology if the development does not overwhelm small farms,</p>

	as setting for small settlements, villages and farms.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	role as setting for small settlements, villages and farms.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	where visual impacts can be minimised. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	visual impacts can be minimised.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	individual houses or small settlements.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally well-maintained farmland, with some distinctive high quality areas in particular at Drumlithie and Auchenblae with its attractive woodland.</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely disrupt the integrity of the well settled landscape, and erode its distinctive coastal farmland character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely disrupt the integrity of the well settled landscape, and erode its distinctive coastal farmland character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type which is likely to severely disrupt the integrity of the well settled landscape, and erode its distinctive coastal farmland character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The LCT is susceptible to change from this category of development which is likely to impact on the integrity of the well settled landscape, and erode its distinct coastal farmland character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>There is likely to be some ability to accommodate this typology without causing widespread or severe disruption of the integrity of the landscape, where the development can be accommodated where they may be screening or in the more undulating landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreground to the Highland Boundary fault and backdrop to the coastal area.</li> <li>• Setting for numerous coastal towns such as Stonehaven, Catterline, Inverbervie, Gordon, Johnshaven, St Cyrus and Montrose. Also backdrop to Laurencekirk.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology could cause significant visual intrusion given the prominence of the steep scarp of the Mounth uplands rising to the north west in contrast to the low rounded ridge of Garvock Hill. The development type would also diminish the role of the landscape as setting for local towns and villages.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology could cause significant visual intrusion given the prominence of the steep scarp of the Mounth uplands rising to the north west in contrast to the low rounded ridge of Garvock Hill. The development type would also diminish the role of the landscape as setting for local towns and villages.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There may be some scope for accommodating the development type in very small parts of the landscape but visual intrusion is a key sensitivity given the prominence of the steep scarp of the Mounth uplands rising to the north west in contrast to the low rounded ridge of Garvock Hill. The development type is also likely to diminish the role of the landscape as setting for local towns and villages.</p>	<p>There could be scope for accommodating development in this category without compromising the appearance of development in the landscape when experienced from the context of the LCT. Visual intrusion is a key sensitivity given the prominence of the steep scarp of the Mounth uplands, for example, rising to the north west of this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape may present opportunities to accommodate change from this typology where the field pattern is large and uniform, where turbines can relate to buildings, and where visual intrusion in the landscape can be avoided.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

			<b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>		
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>2. Visual amenity</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium population of residential receptors throughout, with high number in adjoining areas such as Stonehaven.</li> <li>• Busy transport corridor for population and visitors, including national cycle route and visiting the Grassic Gibbon Centre.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of wind turbine development could be visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Whilst the development type is likely to be highly visible from main travel and recreational routes, and from settlement and recreational areas, there is some limited scope for the landscape to accommodate the typology at the lower end of the height range without causing severe impacts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally open views throughout the area, but in some places landform limits views locally but not large enough to screen larger structures.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent, within the landscape on account of its overall openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent, within the landscape on account of its overall openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent, within the landscape on account of its overall openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This category of development could be prominent; within the landscape on account of its overall openness.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible on account of its openness, and a range of receptors are potentially impacted from the development type, but there is some scope to accommodate smaller turbines.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from areas of higher ground and the coast, but rolling landform limits its external visibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines of this height would be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height would be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height would be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance but with greater potential in small parts to site turbines in</p>	<p>Turbines in this size category would be visible from surroundings of the LCT and at some distance but with good potential in parts to site turbines in the rolling landform to limit external visibility.</p>	<p>The development type at the lower end of the height range is less likely to be visible from surroundings across an extensive area and at a distance and there is potential to site turbines in the rolling landform to</p>

			the rolling landform to limit external visibility.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High- medium</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	limit external visibility.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two SLAs overlap and adjoin the LCT. The Southeast Aberdeenshire Coast SLA lies to the east, and to the west is the Braes of the Mearns SLA.</li> <li>Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes (Arbuthnott &amp; Glenbervie), SSSIs</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths such as the Aberdeen Coastal Trail and visitors to historic landscapes, cycling the National Cycle Network (North Sea Cycle</li> </ul>	The landscape is sensitive to intrusion by large wind turbines. The development type would significantly impact on the qualifying interests of the overlapping and adjoining SLAs, and highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.	The landscape is sensitive to intrusion by large wind turbines. The development type would significantly impact on the qualifying interests of the overlapping and adjoining SLAs, and highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of	The landscape is sensitive to intrusion by large wind turbines. The development type would significantly impact on the qualifying interests of the overlapping and adjoining SLAs, and highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural	This category of wind energy development type could adversely impact on the qualifying interests of the overlapping and adjoining designated areas, and intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	The landscape has a degree of ability to accommodate the development type without causing widespread or severe impact.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>

<p>Route) and using the Coastal Trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some locations of cultural interest including the landscape of 'the Mearns' associated with writings of Grassic Gibbon.</li> <li>Perceptual qualities of a well managed farmed landscape.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>		
<p><b>Overall rating landscape value:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p> <p>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (50-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>

<b>Assessment Unit:</b>	<b>Landscape Character Type:</b> <a href="#">25 Farmed Strath - Aberdeenshire</a>
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Notes from the Capacity Study 2014:

- This LCT corresponds with former Landscape Character Area *Ythan Strath Farmland*.
- 2014 Study ‘base landscape capacity’ conclusion was ‘no capacity’ for wind turbines over 30m high.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium scale, with small scale pattern.</li> <li>• Where there are views to neighbouring landscapes, this creates larger sense of scale.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate much of the landscape with its many elements which contain and reduce scale, such as more complex landform, and its distinctive small scale field pattern.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate much of the landscape with its many elements which contain and reduce scale, such as more complex landform, and its distinctive small scale field pattern.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would overly dominate much of the landscape with its many elements which contain and reduce scale, such as more complex landform, and its distinctive small scale field pattern.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology is likely to dominate much of the landscape with its many elements which contain and reduce scale, such as more complex landform, and its distinctive small scale field pattern.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst susceptibility is reduced with turbine height, the development type would be hard to accommodate as it could easily overwhelm the small scale elements of this landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

Landform	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lowland, undulating landform centred on the shallow strath of the River Ythan, rocky outcrops are a feature.</li> <li>Open hills, sheltered boggy hollows with pockets of more intensively farmed land.</li> </ul>	<p>Complex landforms associated with this landscape's granite rock exposures which are particularly evident along the river strath, would be highly susceptible to change from the development type. This scale of turbine would disrupt and detract from the integrity of the landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Complex landforms associated with this landscape's granite rock exposures which are particularly evident along the river strath, would be highly susceptible to change from the development type. This scale of turbine would disrupt and detract from the integrity of the landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Complex landforms associated with this landscape's granite rock exposures which are particularly evident along the river strath, would be highly susceptible to change from the development type. This size of turbine would disrupt and detract from the integrity of the landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Complex landforms associated with this landscape's granite rock exposures which are particularly evident along the river strath, would be highly susceptible to change from the development type. This size of turbine is likely to disrupt and detract from the integrity of the landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst the generally low relief and horizontal profile of the wider and more extensive areas of flat or undulating landform offer some potential to accommodate this typology, the more complex landform features that add intricacy would be sensitive. This stony farmland area with an upland feel, is distinctive amidst the surrounding agricultural lowlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small to medium scale with a traditional unimproved field pattern.</li> </ul>	<p>The small scale landscape pattern and size of its</p>	<p>The small scale landscape pattern and size of its</p>	<p>The small scale landscape pattern and size of its</p>	<p>The small scale landscape pattern and size of its</p>	<p>The small size of individual features could be easily</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A diverse vegetation pattern, with gorse and broom field boundaries and birch scrub.</li> <li>• Drystone dykes rocky outcrops and stone cottages create an upland character contrasting with the extensive policies surrounding Haddo House which are heavily wooded.</li> <li>• The small fields of pasture and scrubby areas with small coniferous woodlands give an upland feel to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>individual features would be dwarfed by the typology. Turbines of this height would detract from the diverse, distinctive and more traditional farmland pattern of pastures with scrubby areas, wet hollows and small coniferous woodlands dotted across the landscape, and which contrast with the extensive policies.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>individual features would be dwarfed by the typology. Turbines of this height would detract from the diverse, distinctive and more traditional farmland pattern of pastures with scrubby areas, wet hollows and small coniferous woodlands dotted across the landscape, and which contrast with the extensive policies.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>individual features would be dominated by the typology. Turbines of this height would detract from the diverse, distinctive and more traditional farmland pattern of pastures with scrubby areas, wet hollows and small coniferous woodlands dotted across the landscape, and which contrast with the extensive policies.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>individual features are likely to be dominated by the typology. Turbines of this height would detract from the diverse, distinctive and more traditional farmland pattern of pastures with scrubby areas, wet hollows and small coniferous woodlands dotted across the landscape, and which contrast with the extensive policies.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>dominated by this typology - there is very limited potential to site turbines of this size to avoid dominating this sensitive landscape, and compromising its rural characteristics.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparse settlement although more widespread in the strath with the small village of Methlick.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would overwhelm the setting of Methlick, farms and steadings, and dominate the setting</p>	<p>The typology would overwhelm the setting of Methlick, farms and steadings, and dominate the setting of, and</p>	<p>The typology would overwhelm the setting of Methlick, farms and steadings, and dominate the setting of, and</p>	<p>The typology is likely to dominate the setting of Methlick, farms and steadings, and the setting of, and</p>	<p>There is very limited potential to site turbines of this size to avoid visual intrusion this sensitive landscape. The</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive policies of Haddo House.</li> <li>• Small scale mineral workings, and a network of minor roads.</li> </ul>	of, and views from, Haddo House.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	views from, Haddo House.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	views from, Haddo House.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	views from, Haddo House.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	typology is likely to visually intrude on the setting of Methlick, farms and steadings, and the setting of, and views from, Haddo House.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional farmland and attractive Historic Garden and Designed Landscape at Haddo, however some field boundaries are poorly maintained and mineral workings.</li> </ul>	Overall this is a landscape with a high degree of integrity which increases sensitivity. The landscape has unique characteristics arising from landforms associated with granite rock exposures, low lying strath setting, traditional farmland, and Haddo estate.	Overall this is a landscape with a high degree of integrity which increases sensitivity. The landscape has unique characteristics arising from landforms associated with granite rock exposures, low lying strath setting, traditional farmland, and Haddo estate.	Overall this is a landscape with a high degree of integrity which increases sensitivity. The landscape has unique characteristics arising from landforms associated with granite rock exposures, low lying strath setting, traditional farmland, and Haddo estate.	Overall this is a landscape with a high degree of integrity which increases sensitivity. The landscape has unique characteristics arising from landforms associated with granite rock exposures, low lying strath setting, traditional farmland, and Haddo estate.	In very small parts there may be potential to accommodate small scale turbines at the lower height threshold of this typology.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting for Haddo House Historic Garden and Designed Landscape (HGDL).</li> <li>The small scale pattern of this LCT contrasts with the more intensively farmed landscapes in the surrounding landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>This distinctive small scale patterned landscape, with the largest HGDL in the inventory at Haddo House presents a landscape highly sensitive to adverse impact from wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This distinctive small scale patterned landscape, with the largest HGDL in the inventory at Haddo House presents a landscape highly sensitive to adverse impact from wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This distinctive small scale patterned landscape, with the largest HGDL in the inventory at Haddo House presents a landscape highly sensitive to adverse impact from wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This distinctive small scale patterned landscape, with the largest HGDL in the inventory at Haddo House presents a landscape highly sensitive to adverse impact from wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>In small parts there may be potential to accommodate small scale turbines at the lower height threshold of this typology.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A sparsely settled area, with a low population of residential receptors in an area with an upland feel, with the contrasting designed landscape of Haddo House.</li> <li>Low level of population travelling through the landscape, but a high number of visitors to Haddo Country Park and the national cycle route.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of very large turbines would cause significant visual intrusion, and erode the quality of the landscape setting, impacting on recreational enjoyment of the landscape for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of large/very large turbines would cause significant visual intrusion, and erode the quality of the landscape setting, impacting on recreational enjoyment of the landscape for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of very large turbines would cause significant visual intrusion, and erode the quality of the landscape setting, impacting on recreational enjoyment of the landscape for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines in this height category are likely to add visual intrusion, and adversely impact on the recreational enjoyment of the landscape for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines in this height category are likely to add visual intrusion, and adversely impact on the recreational enjoyment of the landscape for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Internal Visibility</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open views from higher ground but limited in lower levels.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this very large scale would cause significant visual intrusion across the landscape. Whilst there is varied visibility within the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be able to screen very large structures.</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the landscape. Whilst there is varied visibility within the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be able to</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause visual intrusion across the landscape. Whilst there is varied visibility within the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be able to screen very large structures.</p>	<p>Introduction of this development type could visually intrude the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Introduction of this development type would add visual clutter to the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>

	<b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	screen very large structures. <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>		
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from some transport corridors, but lack of surrounding higher ground limits its external visibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Very large turbines of this scale would be intrusive and form highly visible features from roads.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Very large turbines of this scale would be intrusive and form highly visible features from roads.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Very large turbines of this scale could be intrusive and form highly visible features from roads. There may be some limited scope to site turbines to be less visually prominent in views from roads.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>There is likely to be more scope for the landscape to accommodate this height of turbine to be less visually prominent in views from roads.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility decreases with height and there is likely to be more scope for the landscape to accommodate this height of turbine to be less visually prominent in views from roads.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium-low</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the largest Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes designated in</li> </ul>	Very large turbines of this scale would be highly prominent	Turbines within this height category would	Turbines of this height would introduce	Turbines of this height are likely to introduce	Turbines of this height are likely to introduce a visual

<p>Aberdeenshire, Haddo House (views extend across the wider Banff and Buchan plain, and to the south towards the distinctive landmark monument of the Hill of Ythsie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country park, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Ancient Woodland.</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors to historic landscapes, Country Park, using the Castle Trail and cycling the National Cycle Network (North Sea Cycle Route).</li> <li>Perceptual qualities of a traditional upland farmed landscape with some areas of naturalness and attractive policies around Haddo.</li> </ul>	<p>features, and have an adverse impact on the cultural appreciation and recreational experience of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>be highly prominent features, and have an adverse impact on the cultural appreciation and recreational experience of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>prominent features, and have an adverse impact on the cultural appreciation and recreational experience of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>prominent features and/or a visual distraction, and have an adverse impact on the cultural appreciation and recreational experience of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>distraction, and have an adverse impact on the cultural appreciation and recreational experience of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape value:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM-LOW</b></p>

<b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>					
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Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Forms part of previous larger Landscape Character Area *Central Wooded Estates* now split into three; LCT26 still covers a large expanse, with valley sections now distinguished as LCT31, LCT30 comprising a small section distinguished around Hatton of Fintray, and upstream of the River Don LCT31 transitions to LCT33 along the River Dee. LCT 31 provides a more logical link with Aberdeen City's *River Valley – Aberdeen* LCT.
- 2014 Study conclusion for 'base landscape capacity' for *Central Wooded Estates* was 'low capacity' for up to 50m turbine height.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to large in extent, long open views contrast with sudden enclosure by woodland.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the landscape, interrupting long distant views, and cause visual conflict with the more intimate scale of the numerous enclosed pockets of woodland that</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the landscape, interrupting long distant views, and cause visual conflict with the more intimate scale of the numerous</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the landscape, interrupting long distant views, and cause visual conflict with the more intimate scale of the numerous enclosed pockets</p>	<p>The development type is likely to significantly dominate the landscape, and could interrupt long distant views, and cause visual conflict with the more intimate scale of the numerous enclosed pockets</p>	<p>There may be limited opportunities to accommodate turbines within this height category in very small parts. The landscape remains sensitive to visual disruption of long views.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b></p>

	characterise this LCT. <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	enclosed pockets of woodland that characterise this LCT. <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	of woodland that characterise this LCT. <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	of woodland that characterise this LCT. <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topography varies from broad sweeping floodplains and valleys, to hills with pockets of small scale relief.</li> <li>• Overall, a rolling landform with low hills and wide valleys.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively impact on the rolling relief of the landscape, and cause significant visual distraction.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively impact on the rolling relief of the landscape, and cause significant visual distraction.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively impact on the rolling relief of the landscape, and cause significant visual distraction.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>The effect of changing relief, farming patterns and strong woodland structure is sensitive to change from the development type. The varied topography of the landscape could potentially accommodate the development type in parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>The effect of changing relief, farming patterns and strong woodland structure is sensitive to change from the development type. The varied topography of the landscape could potentially accommodate the development type in parts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pattern relates strongly to landform, with large open arable fields in broader areas, with smaller pasture fields enclosed by drystone dykes where topography is more confined / steeper, and small scale.</li> <li>• Dense and extensive areas of woodland is a consistent feature, strong woodland structure associated with numerous estate policies.</li> <li>• Designed features associated with estates such as walls and beech avenues.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines of this scale would not associate with the landscape pattern of fields and dense woodland estates which are closely tied with the land relief, causing both visual distraction and loss of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this scale would not associate with the landscape pattern of fields and dense woodland estates which are closely tied with the land relief, causing both visual distraction and loss of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this scale would not associate with the landscape pattern of fields and dense woodland estates which are closely tied with the land relief, causing both visual distraction and loss of integrity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type is likely to detract from the pattern of woodland estates and designed landscape features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>The development type is likely to detract from the pattern of woodland estates and designed landscape features.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well settled landscape, with the larger towns of Inverurie, Kintore and Westhill (development associated with the A96 and Aberdeen), Monymusk and Kemnay.</li> <li>• The landscape is crossed by the A96, the main Inverness to Aberdeen Railway line, pylon lines and a network of roads. There are telecommunications masts.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the landscape and create significant visual intrusion. Turbines of this scale would add significant visual clutter in this landscape which provides a</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the landscape and create significant visual intrusion. Turbines of this scale would add significant visual clutter in this</p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate the landscape and create significant visual intrusion. Turbines of this scale would add significant visual clutter in this landscape which provides a</p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible to change on account of there being widespread settlement. There may be some ability to accommodate the development type at the lower height range of this typology.</p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible to change on account of there being widespread settlement. There may be some ability to accommodate the development type at the lower height range of this typology.</p>

	backdrop for settlements.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	landscape which provides a backdrop for settlements.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	backdrop for settlements.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b>	<b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally well-managed farmland and extensive areas of estate woodland, and a large number of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type together with any ancillary development would severely erode the integrity of this well managed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type together with any ancillary development would severely erode the integrity of this well managed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type together with any ancillary development would severely erode the integrity of this well managed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this height category could significantly erode the integrity of this well managed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this height category are likely to erode the integrity of this well managed landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A foreground landscape for the prominent backdrop of the prominent Grampian <i>Outlying Hills and Ridges</i> LCT to the west.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines at this scale would be excessively prominent, and significantly affect</p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would be excessively prominent, and significantly</p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would be excessively prominent, and significantly affect</p>	<p>Turbines at this scale are likely to be highly prominent, and significantly affect</p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would add visual clutter and erode the quality of the landscape's role as</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A setting for numerous Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.</li> <li>• In close proximity to Aberdeen City.</li> <li>• A setting for Aberdeen, numerous towns and villages.</li> </ul>	<p>views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of the landscape's role as setting for towns, villages and estates, and for its long views to the distant highlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>affect views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of the landscape's role as setting for towns, villages and estates, and for its long views to the distant highlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of the landscape's role as setting for towns, villages and estates, and for its long views to the distant highlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This is likely to erode the quality of the landscape's role as setting for towns, villages and estates, and for its long views to the distant highlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>setting for towns, villages and estates, and for its long views to the distant highlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>
<p><b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b></p>					
<p><b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High population of residential receptors.</li> <li>• High level of movement of population through the landscape, and high number of</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of very large turbines would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the</p>	<p>Introduction of very large turbines would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the</p>	<p>Introduction of large turbines would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this height category could cause significant visual intrusion and erode the quality of the</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this height category could cause visual intrusion and erode the quality of the landscape setting for</p>

visitors, in particular to the historic estates and monuments.	landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	landscape setting for the local population, and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b>	the local population, and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views open from higher points; at lower levels views varied.</li> <li>Varied visibility due to landform and trees which are not large enough to screen large structures.</li> </ul>	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the landscape from roads and settlement. Whilst there is varied visibility within the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be able to screen very large structures.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the landscape from roads and settlement. Whilst there is varied visibility within the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be able to screen very large structures.	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the landscape from roads and settlement. Whilst there is varied visibility within the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be able to screen very large structures.	Introduction of this development type would cause significant visual intrusion across the landscape from roads and settlement.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b>	Introduction of turbines could cause visual intrusion through the landscape from roads and settlement.  <b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b>

		<b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b>		
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from Aberdeen, and from the high ground to the west: the <i>Outlying Hills and Ridges</i> LCT is inextricably linked to the character of surrounding lowlands.</li> <li>The surrounding high ground is integral to Aberdeenshire's landscape identity, with its iconic peaks such as Bennachie and Tap o'Noth.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this scale would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this scale would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this scale would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this scale would cause extensive visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this scale would add visual clutter, impacting on overall visibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity Rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of interest including a large number of archaeological remains, historic buildings and estates.</li> <li>A number of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes,</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely impact on the historic and recreational value of the landscape to both local</p>	<p>The development type would severely impact on the historic and recreational value of the</p>	<p>The development type would severely impact on the historic and recreational value of the landscape to both</p>	<p>The development type would significantly impact on the historic and recreational value of the landscape to both local</p>	<p>Turbines within this height category would impact on the historic and recreational value of the landscape to both local population</p>

<p>notably: Monymusk (views towards Bennachie and Cairn William), Keith Hall (views across River Urie), Crabbies Castle (long views across the River Dee towards Durriss Forest), Castle Fraser (views across River Don, and to the Bennachie Hills), Dunecht House (long view south towards Durriss Forest), Drum castle (panoramic views from the top of the Castle tower).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenbelt, Special Areas of Conservation, SSSI, Ancient Woodland and SAMs.</li> <li>• Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors to the historic estates, including those using the Castle &amp; Victorian Trails</li> <li>• Perceived as a well managed, farmed landscape and extensive policy woodland.</li> </ul>	<p>population and visitors. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>landscape to both local population and visitors. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>local population and visitors. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>population and visitors. There would be widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>and visitors. The development type would detract from the qualifying features and attributes of this landscape's many historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape value:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>

<b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>HIGH</b>		<b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>	
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**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [27 - Farmed Moorland Edge - Aberdeenshire](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- This LCT was formerly four separate Landscape Character Areas: *Kincardine Plateau*; *Daugh of Cairnborrow*; *Lumsden Valley*; and *The Cromar Uplands*. This is now one LCT but in four different locations.
- In the 2014 Study conclusions for 'base landscape capacity' were: *Kincardine Plateau* and *Daugh of Cairnborrow* - 'low capacity' for up to 80m turbines; *Lumsden Valley* with 'medium capacity' up to 50m high turbines; and *The Cromar Uplands* with no capacity beyond 30m high turbines.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varying scale. Generally the landscape is characterised by its small to medium scale landscape pattern, but of larger scale where it is open and with a stronger moorland characteristic.</li> <li>The pasturelands, small woodlands and scattered grey steadings create a small-scale landscape pattern.</li> </ul>	The development type would overwhelm the landscape with its small to medium scale characteristics as determined by its landscape pattern of small fields and drystone dykes, which make up	The development type would overwhelm the landscape with its small to medium scale characteristics as determined by its landscape pattern of small fields and drystone dykes, which make up	The development type would overwhelm the landscape with its small to medium scale characteristics as determined by its landscape pattern of small fields and drystone dykes, which make up	The development type could dominate the landscape with its small to medium scale landscape pattern of small fields and drystone dykes, which make up large parts of this landscape type.	<p>There may be opportunities to accommodate the development type where the landscape is more open, and larger scale in character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

	large parts of this landscape type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	large parts of this landscape type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	large parts of this landscape type.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has variable relief but generally low, rolling hills and shallow valleys, with some rocky ridges on higher slopes.</li> <li>Characteristically intricate pattern of fields and woods and a tightly undulating relief often with hummocky landform at the foot steep slopes, but also narrow flat bottomed valleys.</li> <li>Landform more complex and hummocky in some areas such as Lumsden Valley where glacial features are evident.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would overwhelm the landscape with its generally low-lying relief.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would overwhelm the landscape with its generally low-lying relief.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type is likely to overwhelm the landscape with its generally low-lying relief.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could appear prominent in the landscape with its generally low-lying relief.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type would be less prominent in areas, at low lying points where there is a less complex landform, and where the landform or trees provide a backdrop to accommodate the development. Turbines on rolling hill tops would adversely impact the landscape character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essentially an agricultural landscape where livestock</li> </ul>	The development type would	The development type would disrupt	The development type would disrupt	The development type could disrupt	Susceptibility is reduced where

<p>farming with small enclosed fields predominates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable landform, diverse small scale, mosaic of farmland, scattered broadleaf, and small woodland blocks, clumps of broadleaf trees and shelterbelts associated with steadings pattern lower slopes, pockets of small hills and valleys, wide views in some areas.</li> <li>• Often intricate landform of small fields and areas of pasture well defined by drystone dykes.</li> <li>• A transitional landscape sharing characteristics of both higher moorland, and lower agricultural land.</li> <li>• Open farmed land in the east, and a transition to remote exposed moorland in the west. Marginal upland farming, sheep grazing and patches of gorse scrub, birch and willow occurs at the transition with the uplands.</li> <li>• Mix of wild unkept grasslands with scrubby patches of willow, birch and pine and occasional</li> </ul>	<p>excessively dominate and disrupt the rich diverse nature of this landscape and impact on its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the rich diverse nature of this landscape and impact on its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the rich diverse nature of this landscape and impact on its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the rich diverse nature of this landscape and impact on its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>impact on landform from the development type can be avoided, in particular the intricate small scale fields and pasture lands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
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<p>small fields of lush green pasture enclosed by drystone dykes or post and wire fences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coniferous plantations are also a feature on hills such as the distinct landform of The Bin and The Balloch.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settlement relatively sparse overall whilst areas along the Kincardine Plateau and Cromar uplands are more densely settled, notably along the A90 corridor.</li> <li>Otherwise this landscape type is variably crossed by A-roads, minor roads, the railway between Aberdeen and Inverness, pylon lines and telecommunications masts.</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape is susceptible to imposition by large scale structures. The development type would disrupt the rich diverse nature of this landscape and impact on its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible to imposition by large scale structures. The development type would disrupt the rich diverse nature of this landscape and impact on its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape is susceptible to imposition by large scale structures. The development type would disrupt the rich diverse nature of this landscape and impact on its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could disrupt the rich diverse nature of this landscape to some degree.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility decreases with turbine height but this typology could disrupt the rich diverse nature of this landscape to some degree. However the landscape can potentially accommodate the development type without significant impact on character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some areas of well maintained farmland with a high degree of integrity but other areas where there are signs of neglect with derelict drystone dykes and encroaching gorse.</li> <li>Conifer plantations can conceal landform and these together with a decline in farming, loss of drystone dykes and isolated derelict farmsteads in parts, reduce landscape integrity and quality.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is susceptible in terms of maintaining its rich diverse character which defines its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands. The development type would not harmonise with this landscape role.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is susceptible in terms of maintaining its rich diverse character which defines its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands. The development type would not harmonise with this landscape role.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is susceptible in terms of maintaining its rich diverse character which defines its transitional role as buffer between the higher moorland summits and plateaux, and the lowland agricultural heartlands. The development type would not harmonise with this landscape role.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The varying degree of quality and landscape integrity may potentially allow for development of turbines within this height category in parts without widespread or severe change.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>Smaller scale turbines could potentially relate to the landscape in parts, such as where the landscape is of lesser quality.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A contrast with more intensively managed farmland in adjacent landscapes.</li> <li>• Transition to the higher ground is often marked by a strong contrast between bright smooth pasture of the lower land, contrasting with dark heather and forest in the other.</li> <li>• Provides setting for settlements including Huntly, and Keith in Moray, a distant backdrop to the wider settlement of Aberdeen, foreground to the <i>Outlying Hills and Ridges</i> LCT, and setting for coastal villages and satellite settlements of Portlethen and Newtonhill or smaller villages in more remote parts such as Torphins and Lumphannan.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would significantly disrupt the role of the landscape as a foreground to the higher hills and ridges. The development would erode the rural character of the landscape, and impact on the setting it provides for settlements near and far.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would significantly disrupt the role of the landscape as a foreground to the higher hills and ridges. The development would erode the rural character of the landscape, and impact on the setting it provides for settlements near and far.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would significantly disrupt the role of the landscape as a foreground to the higher hills and ridges. The development would erode the rural character of the landscape, and impact on the setting it provides for settlements near and far.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could visually intrude on the landscape foreground to the higher hills and ridges, and setting for settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type could visually intrude on the landscape foreground to the higher hills and ridges.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>	<p><b>Medium</b></p>
<p><b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b></p>					
<p><b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate to low population of residential receptors, but higher</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from</p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from</p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from</p>	<p>In the main, the development type would be</p>	<p>In the main, the development type would be highly</p>

<p>number in the Kincardine Plateau area, being closer to Aberdeen, with higher population usage of roads, and visitors using the National Cycle Route.</p>	<p>main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>highly visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas. There may be some potential to accommodate the development in very small parts, in lower lying areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>visible from main transport routes, settlement and recreational areas. There may be some potential to accommodate the development in very small parts, in lower lying areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling plateau landform allows open extensive views across area, very limited local screening by landform and trees but not large enough to screen large structures.</li> <li>Views open from higher points down towards the coast within the Kincardine Plateau.</li> <li>Locally landform limits views at some locations, but open views</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening opportunities from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening opportunities from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening opportunities from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced with turbine height, and the development type may potentially relate to the landform in parts where not visually prominent.</p>	<p>The development type may potentially be accommodated at lower points where the landform will not be dominated.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>

in others such as towards Mither Tap in the north and down to Deeside from some locations.				<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>	
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from adjoining areas of high ground such as The Buck, Coreen Hills and Top o’Noth, as well as from higher level roads, and from Deeside and Aberdeen.</li> <li>Visible also from the valley floor below.</li> <li>Valley profile often limits wider vistas.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from adjoining areas. Visual effects from wind energy developments are a key sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from adjoining areas. Visual effects from wind energy developments are a key sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from adjoining areas. Visual effects from wind energy developments are a key sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type could be highly visible from adjoining areas. Susceptibility is reduced with turbine height and siting, although if located within the lower lying areas the development type could also intrude on open views from roads and settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is reduced with turbine height and siting, although if located within the lower lying areas the development type could also intrude on open views from roads and settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High - Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>

<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in close proximity - Deveron Valley SLA to the north of Huntly, Bennachie SLA and Upper Don Valley SLA lie in the central area, with Howe of Cromar SLA further south.</li> <li>Greenbelt, Special Areas of Conservation, SSSI's, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Ancient Woodland and Conservation Areas. Historic Garden and Designed Landscape surrounding Craigievar Castle.</li> <li>Areas used by local residential population as well as visitors for informal recreation, core paths and visitors cycling the National Cycle Network (North Sea Cycle Route) and travelling on the Coastal Trail, sculpture walks, Queens View and Castle &amp; Victoria tourist trails.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines at this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines at this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines at this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst there may be some ability to accommodate the development type in small parts, susceptibility is increased on account of potential impact on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Whilst there may be some ability to accommodate the development type in small parts, susceptibility is increased on account of potential impact on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceptual qualities overall of an upland farmed landscape with open moorland roads, derelict stone steadings create a sense of remoteness. Open views in some areas and the moorland ridges contrast to form an imposing backdrop to most views.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High - Medium</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  <b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b>

<b>Assessment Unit:</b>		<b>Landscape Character Type: <a href="#">28 - Outlying Hills &amp; Ridges</a></b>			
Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprises a cluster of locations but is one LCT. Broadly corresponds with the former Landscape Character Area <i>Grampian Outliers</i>.</li> <li>2014 Study conclusion for 'base landscape capacity' was 'no capacity' for wind turbine development over 15m height.</li> </ul>					
<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>		<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>			
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large, with some medium scale areas.</li> <li>Smaller in scale at the base of slopes.</li> </ul>	The development type would impact on the hill settings in views from summits, and views to these hills. At higher elevations the distinctive profiles of dramatic outcrops of rock creating ever present local landmarks are highly visible across a wide expanse of Aberdeenshire. There would be severe erosion of	The development type would impact on the hill settings in views from summits, and views to these hills. At higher elevations the distinctive profiles of dramatic outcrops of rock creating ever present local landmarks are highly visible across a wide expanse of Aberdeenshire. There would be severe erosion of	The development type would impact on the hill settings in views from summits, and views to these hills. At higher elevations the distinctive profiles of dramatic outcrops of rock creating ever present local landmarks are highly visible across a wide expanse of	This category of development would impact on the hill settings in views from summits, and impact on the hill settings in views to these hills. At higher elevations the distinctive profiles of local landmarks in this LCT are highly visible across a wide expanse of the district. There	A smaller typology would have a reduced susceptibility in a larger scale landscape, however the development type would add significant visual intrusion. There would be erosion of the distinctive character of this landscape which is integral to the identity of

	<p>landscape character integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>landscape character integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Aberdeenshire. There would be significant erosion of landscape character integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>could be an erosion of local landscape character which is integral to the identity of this part of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Aberdeenshire, and is highly visible across a very wide area.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Med</b></p>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moorland spurs extending from the Cairngorm massif and out into the surrounding farmland forming promontories.</li> <li>Smooth, rolling hills of both gentle and steep relief, with dramatic rocky outcrops such as at Bennachie, Mither Tap and Tap o'Noth.</li> <li>These hills are distinctive landmarks integral to the landscape identity of Aberdeenshire.</li> </ul>	<p>Despite the simple, rolling landform, turbines of this height in this sensitive landscape would cause significant visual intrusion. The typology would detract from the distinctive moorland spurs and rocky outcrop landmarks integral to the landform. The distinctive character would be eroded and severely impacted by the large structures and infrastructure</p>	<p>Despite the simple, rolling landform, turbines of this height in this sensitive landscape would cause significant visual intrusion. The typology would detract from the distinctive moorland spurs and rocky outcrop landmarks integral to the landform. The distinctive character would be eroded and severely impacted by the large structures and</p>	<p>Despite the simple, rolling landform, turbines of this height in this sensitive landscape would cause significant visual intrusion. The typology would detract from the distinctive moorland spurs and rocky outcrop landmarks integral to the landform. The distinctive character would be eroded and severely impacted by the large</p>	<p>Whilst this LCT could potentially be considered for this category of development, there would be visual intrusion in this sensitive landscape. The distinctive character could be impacted by this category of wind turbine and associated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>Whilst the rolling landform could potentially be considered for the development type, there would be visual intrusion in this sensitive landscape. The distinctive character would be eroded.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

	associated with this typology.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	infrastructure associated with this typology.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	structures and infrastructure associated with this typology.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinctive spurs of moorland, with dramatic rocky outcrops, projecting out into surrounding farmland, bare moorland summits.</li> <li>• Extensive conifer plantations on slopes and distinctive fields at the base.</li> <li>• Landform/pattern is almost entirely obscured by extensive conifer plantations in some areas.</li> <li>• Steadings located at the base of slopes where there is a transition to farmland.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would significantly detract from the moorland spurs, each with their distinctive character, projecting from the central massif of the Cairngorms into the farmed landscape in the low lying areas, together with dramatic rocky outcrops. The development type would intrude on the sense of remoteness that these features contribute to.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would significantly detract from the moorland spurs, each with their distinctive character, projecting from the central massif of the Cairngorms into the farmed landscape in the low lying areas, together with dramatic rocky outcrops. The development type would intrude on the sense of remoteness that these features contribute to.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology would significantly detract from the moorland spurs, each with their distinctive character, projecting from the central massif of the Cairngorms into the farmed landscape in the low lying areas, together with dramatic rocky outcrops. The development type would intrude on the sense of remoteness that these features contribute to.</p>	<p>This category of development would impact on the exposed moorland and forested landscape, and the LCT's sense of remoteness. The moorland spurs, each with their distinctive character, have some sensitivity to this category of wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The typology would impact on the exposed moorland and forested landscape, and the sense of remoteness this enhances. The moorland spurs, each with their distinctive character, increases susceptibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

			<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Development</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited development with occasional farms, minor roads and tracks at lower elevations.</li> <li>Few sections of main roads, and telecommunication masts.</li> </ul>	<p>Although relatively sparsely settled, the distinctive topography, and landscape rich with historic cultural meaning, increases its susceptibility to development of wind turbines which at this scale would excessively dominate and visually intrude the skyline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Although relatively sparsely settled, the distinctive topography, and landscape rich with historic cultural meaning, increases its susceptibility to development of wind turbines which at this scale would excessively dominate and visually intrude the skyline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Although relatively sparsely settled, the distinctive topography, and landscape rich with historic cultural meaning, increases its susceptibility to development of wind turbines which at this scale would excessively dominate and visually intrude the skyline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Although relatively sparsely settled, the landscape has a distinctive topography, is a landscape rich with historic cultural meaning, and provides a back drop to neighbouring LCT's. This increases susceptibility to development of wind turbines in this category which could dominate the landscape and visually intrude the skyline.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The typology could visually intrude upon, and distract from, the distinctive hills and ridges of this sensitive landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas of high quality with a high degree of integrity, but conifer monoculture, decline in traditional moorland management and loss of drystone dykes at lower elevations.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of this LCT is susceptible to this category of wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this LCT is susceptible to this category of wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this LCT is susceptible to this category of wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this LCT is susceptible to this category of wind energy development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape is susceptible although smaller scale turbines in small parts where the landscape is of lesser quality may present an opportunity to compensate for development impacts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Landscape Context</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defines the extent of views across the lowlands, providing a setting to many towns and villages, foreground to the Cairngorm massif and acts as a distinctive backdrop to the farmed lowland areas and straths.</li> </ul>	<p>The strong visual relationship of the LCT with the wider Cairngorm massif heightens sensitivity and the landscape is integral to the character of the surrounding lowlands providing outstanding focal points and distinctive landmarks. The development type</p>	<p>The strong visual relationship of the LCT with the wider Cairngorm massif heightens sensitivity and the landscape is integral to the character of the surrounding lowlands providing outstanding focal points and distinctive landmarks. The</p>	<p>The strong visual relationship of the LCT with the wider Cairngorm massif heightens sensitivity and the landscape is integral to the character of the surrounding lowlands providing outstanding focal points and distinctive</p>	<p>The strong visual relationship of the LCT with the wider Cairngorm massif heightens sensitivity and the LCT is integral to the character of the surrounding lowlands providing distinctive local landmarks. This development category could</p>	<p>The strong visual relationship of the LCT with the wider Cairngorm massif heightens sensitivity and the landscape is integral to the character of the surrounding lowlands providing outstanding focal points and distinctive</p>

	would significantly diminish the distinctive character of the landscape which is indivisibly linked to its surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	development type would significantly diminish the distinctive character of the landscape which is indivisibly linked to its surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	landmarks. The development type would significantly diminish the distinctive character of the landscape which is indivisibly linked to its surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	diminish the distinctive character of the LCT which is indivisibly linked to its surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	landmarks. The development type would diminish the distinctive character of the landscape which is indivisibly linked to its surrounding areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low population of residential receptors.</li> <li>Visible from a number of larger settlements below such as Huntly, Aboyne, Banchory, Inverurie, Inch and Alford. Bennachie visible from Aberdeen.</li> <li>Visible from many main transport routes and tourist trails</li> </ul>	Although the LCT is sparsely settled, the development type would be highly visible from a number of large settlements, main transport routes, and key tourist and recreational areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Although the LCT is sparsely settled, the development type would be highly visible from a number of large settlements, main transport routes, and key tourist and recreational areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Although the LCT is sparsely settled, the development type would be highly visible from a number of large settlements, main transport routes, and key tourist and recreational areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Although the LCT is sparsely settled, this development category would be highly visible from a number of larger settlements, main transport routes, and key tourist and recreational areas.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Whilst susceptibility is reduced with turbine size, with high inter-visibility between viewpoints, this typology is likely to present visual intrusion.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>

into the national park, large number of visitors.					
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spectacular open views from many higher points, but restricted in some areas by landform and woodland.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views. Landform and woodland screening opportunities would not be sufficient to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views. Landform and woodland screening opportunities would not be sufficient to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views. Landform and woodland screening opportunities would not be sufficient to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development category would be prominent within the LCT with its open views. Landform and woodland screening opportunities generally would not be sufficient to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst susceptibility is decreased with turbine size, this typology could be prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30- &lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very conspicuous from external areas and prominent in views across Aberdeenshire, and from Cairngorm National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views. Landform and woodland screening opportunities would</p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views. Landform and woodland screening opportunities would</p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views. Landform and woodland</p>	<p>This development category could be highly prominent within the LCT with its open views. Landform and woodland screening</p>	<p>The development type is likely to be visible within the landscape with its open views. Landform and woodland screening. There</p>

	not be sufficient to screen large structures. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	not be sufficient to screen large structures. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	screening opportunities would not be sufficient to screen large structures. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	opportunities likely would not be sufficient to screen large structures. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	would be limited opportunities would to sufficiently screen large structures. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five Special Landscape Areas (SLA) designations lie within the landscape. Deveron Valley SLA lies to the north, and Bennachie SLA, Upper Don Valley SLA, Howe of Cromar SLA and Dee Valley SLAs lie to the west of and south.</li> <li>The SLA designations emphasise landscape qualities that provide high scenic value, strong landscape identity, sense of place, naturalness. Qualities of wildness and remoteness are also a feature.</li> </ul>	Turbines of this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines of this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines of this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs. <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines in this category could intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of this LCT, and change how it is perceived. This development category would erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.	Turbines could intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type could erode the special qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hill of Towanreef Special Area of Conservation, SSSIs (Coreen Hills, Tilliefoure Wood, Craigs of Succoth), Historic Garden and Designed Landscapes, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Ancient Woodland. To the west, the landscape borders Cairngorms National Park.</li> <li>• Many parts very popular for informal recreation to take in views from distinctive landmarks such as Pressendye, Bennachie and Tap O’Noth, mountain bike/cycle trails, ski trails, core paths and tourist routes.</li> <li>• Monument on Scolty Hill, Hillforts, and ancient monuments and landmarks written about by poets, in traditional songs and rhymes, such as “Clachnaben and Bennachie, Are twa landmarks frae the sea”.</li> <li>• Perceptual qualities of an undeveloped landscape, strong sense of remoteness indivisibly linked to scenic upland areas, including the Cairngorms National Park. Distinctive landforms. contrasting</li> </ul>				<p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	
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strongly with the farmed landscape that surrounds them.					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High - medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [29 - Summits and Plateaux - Aberdeenshire](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- This LCT combines two former Landscape Character Areas - *The Mounth* and *The North Eastern Hill Ranges*.
- The 2014 Study deemed these areas as having no ‘base landscape capacity’ beyond domestic 15m height turbines.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity Analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vast and expansive, with some medium scale areas in the hills at the base of the plateau.</li> <li>• Smaller scale in character on lower slopes.</li> </ul>	<p>Although a vast scale landscape, this size of turbine would dominate the relief. There would be erosion of the distinctive character of this landscape which is integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire, and is highly visible from a very wide area.</p>	<p>Although a vast scale landscape, this size of turbine would dominate the relief. There would be erosion of the distinctive character of this landscape which is integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire, and is highly visible from a very wide area.</p>	<p>Although a vast scale landscape, this size of turbine would dominate the relief. There would be erosion of the distinctive character of this landscape which is integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire, and is highly visible from a very wide area.</p>	<p>Although a vast scale landscape, this category of development would add notable visual intrusion. There would be erosion of the distinctive character of this landscape which is integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire, and is highly visible from a very wide area.</p>	<p>Although a vast scale of landscape, there would be erosion of the distinctive character of this landscape which is integral to the identity of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines 200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A vast smooth rolling plateau extending from the Cairngorm massif almost to Stonehaven on the coast.</li> <li>• Exposed ridgelines and smooth interlocking spurs are a key characteristic.</li> <li>• A distinct southern edge marks the line of the Highland Boundary fault where there is a dramatic and visible change from the lowland landscape to mountains.</li> <li>• The upland landscape provides a dramatic backdrop and contrast to the expansive low lying Howe of the Mearns to the south east.</li> <li>• The north eastern foothills provide a more gradual transition with surrounding farmland.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines of this height in this sensitive landscape would cause significant visual intrusion. The distinctive character would be eroded and severely impacted by large structures and associated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height in this sensitive landscape would cause significant visual intrusion. The distinctive character would be eroded and severely impacted by large structures and associated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height in this sensitive landscape would cause significant visual intrusion. The distinctive character would be eroded and severely impacted by large structures and associated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this height in this sensitive landscape are likely to cause significant visual intrusion. The distinctive character would be eroded by large structures and associated infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Whilst the rolling landform could potentially be considered as suitable for wind turbine development, in this sensitive landscape the development type would cause visual intrusion. The distinctive character would be eroded.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The smooth landform is dissected by shallow gullies and small glens with small burns flowing into rivers within the valley floors, with occasional dramatic rocky outcrops such as at Clachnaben.</li> <li>On the lower slopes where small farms cluster and are enclosed with broadleaf shelterbelts, the landscape is more intricate in character.</li> </ul>					
Land cover - pattern, elements and features	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive broad ridge of moorland, with dramatic rocky outcrops, rising above distant farmland.</li> <li>Lower slopes are extensively forested with conifer plantations whilst the plateau itself is heather moorland extending westwards into the Cairngorms National Park.</li> <li>Deep gullies are often lined with birch and rowan.</li> </ul>	<p>The typology would significantly impact on the exposed moorland and forested landscape and intrude on the sense of remoteness. The moorland swathes should be preserved and maintained to protect this</p>	<p>The typology would significantly impact on the exposed moorland and forested landscape and the sense of remoteness this enhances. The moorland swathes should be preserved and maintained to protect this</p>	<p>The typology would significantly impact on the exposed moorland and forested landscape and the sense of remoteness this enhances. The moorland swathes should be preserved and maintained to protect this</p>	<p>This category of development would impact on the exposed moorland and forested landscape and the sense of remoteness this enhances. The moorland swathes should be preserved and maintained to protect this valuable landscape asset.</p>	<p>The typology is likely to impact on the exposed moorland and forested landscape and the sense of remoteness this enhances. The moorland swathes should be preserved and maintained to protect this valuable landscape asset.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plateau foothills have a more diverse mix of farmland grazed moors, with a patchwork of heather, bracken, gorse, scrubby birch and pine woodland.</li> <li>Unenclosed green pastureland extends up from the base of valley slopes, transitioning from farmland in the low lying areas.</li> </ul>	valuable landscape asset.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	valuable landscape asset.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	valuable landscape asset.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	
<b>Development</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little development, with occasional farms, minor roads and tracks at lower elevations.</li> <li>Telecommunication masts on summits and lines of pylons at the base of the ridge.</li> </ul>	Although sparsely settled in relation to settlements and other built features, the exposed ridgelines and smooth interlocking spurs are sensitive to development of wind turbines which at this scale would excessively dominate the landscape, intrude on the	Although sparsely settled in relation to settlements and other built features, the exposed ridgelines and smooth interlocking spurs are sensitive to development of wind turbines which at this scale would excessively dominate the landscape,	Although sparsely settled in relation to settlements and other built features, the exposed ridgelines and smooth interlocking spurs are sensitive to development of wind turbines which at this scale would dominate the landscape, intrude on the	Although sparsely settled in relation to settlements and other built features, the exposed ridgelines and smooth interlocking spurs are sensitive to development of wind turbines which at this scale could intrude on the skyline and detract from the remoteness of the upland ridges.	Due to relatively sparse perceived development there may be potential for locating this category of wind turbine development in this LCT in small parts.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>

	skyline and detract from the remoteness of the upland ridges.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	intrude on the skyline and detract from the remoteness of the upland ridges.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	skyline and detract from the remoteness of the upland ridges.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas of high quality with a high degree of integrity, but conifer monoculture, decline in traditional moorland management and loss of drystone dykes at lower elevations.</li> </ul>	The integrity of the landscape is highly susceptible to adverse impact from wind energy development.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The integrity of the landscape is highly susceptible to adverse impact from wind energy development.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The integrity of the landscape is highly susceptible to adverse impact from wind energy development.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The integrity of the landscape is highly susceptible to adverse impact from wind energy development.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The integrity of the landscape is susceptible although smaller scale turbines in small parts where the landscape is of lesser quality may present an opportunity to compensate for development impacts.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200mm+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upland dramatic backdrop of this LCT strongly contrasts with the expansive low-lying Howe of the Mearns to the</li> </ul>	The development type would significantly disrupt the role of	The development type would significantly disrupt the role of	The development type would significantly disrupt the role of	The development category would significantly disrupt the role of the LCT	Susceptibility is decreased with scale of turbine. However, the development type

<p>south-east, down towards the coast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defines the extent of views across the lowlands.</li> <li>• Landscape setting to many towns and villages, foreground to the Cairngorm massif and acts as a distinctive backdrop to the farmed lowland areas of straths and Howe of Mearns, and the straths of Deeside.</li> <li>• Distinctive continuation of the highland boundary fault.</li> </ul>	<p>the landscape as a setting for settlements, and would visually intrude upon the distinctive landscape backdrop for all surrounding Landscape Character Types. Visible presence of the highland boundary fault presents a key sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the landscape as a setting for settlements, and would visually intrude upon the distinctive landscape backdrop for all surrounding Landscape Character Types. Visible presence of the highland boundary fault presents a key sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the landscape as a setting for settlements, and would visually intrude upon the distinctive landscape backdrop for all surrounding Landscape Character Types. Visible presence of the highland boundary fault presents a key sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>as a backdrop for surrounding landscapes. Visible presence of the highland boundary fault presents a key sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>could disrupt the role of the landscape as a setting for settlements, and could visually intrude upon the distinctive backdrop the landscape provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very low population of residential receptors.</li> <li>• Highly visible from Stonehaven, Aberdeen and Brechin, mainly from the south</li> </ul>	<p>Although the LCT is sparsely settled, the development type would be highly visible from a number of large</p>	<p>Although the LCT is sparsely settled, the development type would be highly visible from a number of large</p>	<p>Although the LCT is sparsely settled, the development type would be highly visible from a number of large</p>	<p>Although the LCT is sparsely settled, the development type would be highly visible from a number of large settlements, located</p>	<p>Whilst susceptibility is reduced with turbine size, with high inter-visibility between viewpoints, this typology is likely to</p>

<p>and other large settlements such as Banchory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from Aboyne and from main routes into the CNP.</li> <li>Visible from many main transport routes and tourist trails and main routes into the national park, large number of visitors.</li> </ul>	<p>settlements, main transport routes, and key tourist and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>settlements, main transport routes, and key tourist and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>settlements, main transport routes, and key tourist and recreational areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>on lower, surrounding land, main transport routes in the area, and key tourist and recreational destinations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>present visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spectacular open views from many higher points.</li> <li>Views restricted in some areas by landform and woodland but not sufficient to screen large structures.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility is decreased with turbine size, but the development type would be prominent within the landscape with its open views and limited screening from landform and trees.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summits conspicuous from external areas and prominent in views across Aberdeenshire, Deeside, Angus and from Cairngorm National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from a distance at elevation. The sustained, extensive nature of the views increases susceptibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from a distance at elevation. The sustained, extensive nature of the views increases susceptibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would be highly visible from a distance at elevation. The sustained, extensive nature of the views increases susceptibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development type could be visible from a distance outwith the LCT and at elevation. The extensive nature of the views increases susceptibility.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Susceptibility decreases with turbine height. The development type would be less visible from a distance at elevation.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b></p>					
<p><b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LCT is covered by two SLA designations - Clachnaben and Forest of Birse SLA to the west, to the south lies the Braes of the Mearns SLA. These recognise the scenic qualities, naturalness of the landscape and relationship with the highland backdrop and Cairngorms National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines of this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special qualities</p>	<p>Turbines of this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special</p>	<p>Turbines of this height would highly intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. The development type would erode the special</p>	<p>Turbines in this category are likely to intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived. This development category is likely to erode the special qualities and</p>	<p>The development type could intrude on the recreational, community and cultural appreciation of the landscape, and change how it is perceived.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, small part of an Historic Landscape, AWI, part of the Cairngorm SPA where it abuts the Cairngorm National Park.</li> <li>• Popular area for informal recreation to take in views from distinctive landmarks such as Cairn O'Mount and Clachnaben, mountain bike/cycle trails and core paths. Also the Fungle Road a SRoW and old Drovers road.</li> <li>• Part of the Forest of Birse is land held in community trust for the common good.</li> <li>• Cultural associations in traditional songs and rhymes, such as "Clachnaben and Bennachie, Are twa landmarks frae the sea".</li> <li>• Perceptual qualities of a remote upland area where it extends into the Cairngorm Massif, less so in the east where conifer monoculture has eroded these qualities.</li> </ul>	<p>and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>qualities and qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>qualifying characteristics and interests of the nearby SLAs.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valued for scenic qualities and contrasting strongly with the farmed landscape below.</li> </ul>					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>

<b>Assessment Unit:</b>	<b>Landscape Character Type:</b> <a href="#">30 - Narrow Winding Farmed Valley</a>
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Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- Former Landscape Character Area *Donside* now also includes the part of Lower Donside near Aberdeen City.
- 2014 Study conclusion for ‘base landscape capacity’ was ‘no capacity’ for Donside (as gateway to CNP).

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to small, enclosed.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology is likely to excessively dominate key characteristics of the LCT with its enclosed stretches of river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology is likely to excessively dominate key characteristics of the LCT with its enclosed stretches of river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology is likely to significantly dominate key characteristics of the LCT with its enclosed stretches of river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology could overly dominate the contained and enclosed, steeply banked narrow stretches of river valley landform that comprise this LCT.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This LCT is sensitive to visual impact from turbine development. There may be some potential to accommodate smaller turbines, in limited situations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

		(125m-<200m)		(50-<80m)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steep, narrow gorges of the Upper Don between upland areas, but widening into gentle straths through the sandstone areas. These are open areas where contours are smooth and terrain sinuous.</li> <li>A more restricted valley floor closer to the City.</li> </ul>	<p>The contained nature of the river valley form is likely to be visually impacted by turbines of this scale which would interrupt the skyline when viewed from the valley floor. There would be significant disruption to the valley side.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The contained nature of the river valley form is likely to be visually impacted by turbines of this scale which would interrupt the skyline when viewed from the valley floor. There would be significant disruption to the valley side.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The contained nature of the river valley form is likely to be visually impacted by turbines of this scale which would interrupt the skyline when viewed from the valley floor. There would be significant disruption to the valley side.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The contained nature of the river valley form is likely to be visually disrupted by introduction of the development type. The skyline is sensitive to visual disruption when viewed from the valley floor.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The contained nature of the river valley form would be visually impacted by wind turbine development, and there would be significant disruption to the valley sides. There may be some potential to accommodate smaller turbines, in limited situations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong containment of the valley is accentuated by dense woodland comprising a mix of policy woodland shelterbelts and clumps of mature trees.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear excessively prominent, and detract from the rural landscape character with its</p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear excessively prominent, and detract from the rural landscape character with its</p>	<p>Turbines within this height category would appear excessively prominent, and detract from the</p>	<p>The small size of individual features, from clumps of trees to small woodlands and fields, could be easily</p>	<p>The small size of individual features - from clumps of trees to small woodlands and fields could be easily overwhelmed by turbines within this</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More diverse wooded valley sides closer to Aberdeen.</li> <li>• Overall a regular pattern. In the schist gorges of the Upper Don, broadleaved beech woodlands clothe the valley sides and hide the roads.</li> <li>• In the wider sandstone valley, fields are regular, smooth, with few boundaries and a regular pattern of farms.</li> <li>• Farming is the dominant land use on the valley floor and lower sides.</li> <li>• In the Upper Don valley, forested moorland edges mark the transition to the surrounding higher ground.</li> </ul>	<p>well wooded valley sides, semi-natural riparian woodland margins, generally open floodplain, with farming on the valley floor and sides. These elements are integral to the character of this farmed river valley landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>well wooded valley sides, semi-natural riparian woodland margins, generally open floodplain, with farming on the valley floor and sides. These elements are integral to the character of this farmed river valley landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>rural landscape character with its well wooded valley sides, semi-natural riparian woodland margins, generally open floodplain, with farming on the valley floor and sides. These elements are integral to the character of this farmed river valley landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>overwhelmed by turbines within this height category.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>height category. There may be some potential to accommodate smaller turbines, in limited situations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular traditional farmsteads, village of Kildrummy, the A97, network of minor roads and telecommunication masts.</li> <li>• Small clustered village of Hatton of Fintray,</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would overwhelm small farms, villages and individual houses. In the Upper Don valley, the contrast between the</p>	<p>This typology would overwhelm small farms, villages and individual houses. In the Upper Don valley, the contrast</p>	<p>This typology would overwhelm small farms, villages and individual houses. In the</p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could dominate small farms, villages and individual houses. In the</p>	<p>Turbines within this height category could dominate small farms, and individual houses. In the Upper Don valley, the contrast between the</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scattered farmsteads and cottages.</li> </ul>	<p>dramatic mass of the upland area of the CNP, and the small size of buildings would be compromised and diminished by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>between the dramatic mass of the upland area of the CNP, and the small size of buildings would be compromised and diminished by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Upper Don valley, the contrast between the dramatic mass of the upland area of the CNP, and the small size of buildings would be compromised and diminished by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Upper Don valley, the contrast between the dramatic mass of the upland area of the CNP, and the small size of buildings could be compromised and diminished by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>dramatic mass of the upland area of the CNP, and the small size of buildings might be compromised by the development type.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High quality scenic landscape of broadleaved woodland, hidden well manicured farmland contrasting the surrounding moorland (Grampian outliers).</li> <li>Pastoral landscape closer to Aberdeen, with strong rural character.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to adverse impact from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this</p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to adverse impact from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall</p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to adverse impact from the development type. There would be</p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to adverse impact from the development type. There would be erosion of the overall character</p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is vulnerable to adverse impact from the development type which could erode its scenic and rural qualities.</p>

	highly scenic and rural LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	character of this highly scenic and rural LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	significant erosion of the overall character of this highly scenic and rural LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	of this highly scenic and rural LCT.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main access to the Grampians to the west, and setting for the Cairngorm National Park.</li> <li>To the east, the rural character provides sense of relative tranquility despite proximity of the city, airport and roads.</li> <li>The Landscape Character Type forms the northern side of the Aberdeen City Council's <i>River Valley – Aberdeen</i> LCT, sharing the well defined characteristics of a strongly contained river valley and well-wooded landform.</li> </ul>	Very large turbines would detract from the rural character and tranquility of the Lower Don, and significantly diminish the scenic composition of the wider landscape in the Upper Don as part of the setting for the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines within this height category would detract from the rural character and tranquility of the Lower Don, and significantly diminish the scenic composition of the wider landscape in the Upper Don as part of the setting for the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines within this height category would detract from the rural character and tranquility of the Lower Don, and significantly diminish the scenic composition of the wider landscape in the Upper Don as part of the setting for the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines within this height category would detract from rural character and tranquility of the Lower Don, and significantly diminish the scenic composition of the wider landscape in the Upper Don as part of the setting for the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Turbines within this height category would detract from the rural character and tranquility of the Lower Don, and diminish the scenic composition of the wider landscape in the Upper Don as part of the setting for the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>

<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low population of residential receptors. Moderate movement of population and very high number of visitors accessing Cairngorm National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of very tall turbines would cause substantial visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, with a significant impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of within this size category would cause substantial visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, with a significant impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category would cause substantial visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, with a significant impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category are likely to cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, with impacting on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category are likely to cause visual intrusion, impacting the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varied visibility due to landform and trees but not large enough to screen large structure.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of very tall turbines would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category are likely to cause visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>External Visibility</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from higher ground (the Grampian Outliers), Cairngorm National Park and higher levels roads.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of very tall turbines would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, compromising views from higher</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this size category would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion,</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this height category would cause significant and extensive visual</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this height category are likely to cause significant visual intrusion,</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines within this height category are likely to visual intrusion that would compromise views from higher level</p>

	level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	intrusion, compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>	roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper Don Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA) designation, recognises high scenic qualities, naturalness and connectivity.</li> <li>Other designations include the Historic Garden and Designed Landscape at Kildrummy Castle (with extensive views north-east to Tap 'North and the Correen Hills. The Calliver Hills can be seen from both the castle and the house, beyond the River Don), Scheduled Ancient</li> </ul>	Introduction of very large turbines would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, diminishing the role of the landscape as gateway to, and part of the setting of, the Cairngorms National Park. There would be significant adverse impact on the setting and the prominence of archaeological and	Introduction of very large turbines would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, diminishing the role of the landscape as gateway to, and part of the setting of, the Cairngorms National Park. There would be significant adverse impact on the setting and the	Introduction of turbines within this size category would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, diminishing the role of the landscape as gateway to, and part of the setting of, the Cairngorms National Park. There would be	Introduction of turbines of this size category would cause significant visual intrusion, diminishing the role of the landscape as gateway to, and part of the setting of, the Cairngorms National Park. There would be significant impact on the setting and	Introduction of turbines of this size category would cause visual intrusion, diminishing the role of the landscape as gateway to, and part of the setting of, the Cairngorms National Park. There would be impact on the setting and the prominence of archaeological and historic features. In both Upper and Lower Don there would be severe

<p>Monuments and Ancient Woodland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access for visitors to Cairngorms National Park, Castle Trail, Kildrummy Castle and Highland Tourist Route to Speyside, area used by local residential population for formal/informal recreation.</li> <li>• Closer to Aberdeen, archaeological historic features with distinctive character including chapels, bridges, estate policies and buildings and old mills, and here the LCT lies within greenbelt.</li> <li>• Perceptual qualities are of peaceful, attractive pastoral landscape where manicured farmland contrasts with the surrounding moorland and hills.</li> </ul>	<p>historic features. In both Upper and Lower Don there would be severe disruption to the rural tranquility this landscape provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>prominence of archaeological and historic features. In both Upper and Lower Don there would be severe disruption to the rural tranquility this landscape provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>significant adverse impact on the setting and the prominence of archaeological and historic features. In both Upper and Lower Don there would be severe disruption to the rural tranquility this landscape provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the prominence of archaeological and historic features. In both Upper and Lower Don there would be severe disruption to the rural tranquility this landscape provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>disruption to the rural tranquility this landscape provides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Overall rating landscape value:</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High</b></p>	<p><b>High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b></p>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines(80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>

<b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>					
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**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [31 - Broad Wooded and Farmed Valley](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- River valley section distinguished from the former, larger Landscape Character Area *Central Wooded Estates*.
- The 2014 Study identified the ‘base landscape capacity’ for the wider area of Central Wooded Estates as - ‘low capacity’ for up to 50m turbine height.

Assessment criteria – factors considered	Sensitivity analysis				
1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER					
Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)	Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)	Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-<200m)	Assessment: Large turbines (80-<125m)	Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-<80m)	Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-<50m)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale valley landform with long views contrasting with sudden enclosures by woodland.</li> <li>• The broad valley becomes smaller scale closer to Aberdeen where there is a greater sense of enclosure.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would visually dominate. There is a sense of scale from the broad valley and long views, but the landscape is contained by the wooded valley across rolling terraces interspersed with walled pastures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would visually dominate. There is a sense of scale from the broad valley and long views, but the landscape is contained by the wooded valley across rolling terraces interspersed with walled pastures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would visually dominate. There is a sense of scale from the broad valley and long views, but the landscape is contained by the wooded valley across rolling terraces interspersed with walled pastures.</p>	<p>The development type is likely to visually dominate. There is a sense of scale from the broad valley and long views, but the landscape is contained by the wooded valley across rolling terraces interspersed with walled pastures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type would add visual clutter within the contained wooded valley across rolling terraces interspersed with walled pastures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity: High-medium</b></p>

			<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valley sides with low hills forming rolling terraces.</li> </ul>	<p>The river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. This scale of turbine would excessively visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. This scale of turbine would excessively visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. The scale of turbine would visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. The typology would visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The river valley landscape is susceptible to change from visual intrusion, and diminishment of the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Dee, rolling terraces with distinctive sequence of bands of birch and pine, interspersed with walled pastureland along valley sides.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be severely compromised by this typology. Very tall turbines would overwhelm the wooded and</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be severely compromised by this typology. Turbines within this height category would</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be significantly compromised by this typology. Turbines within this height</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be compromised by this typology. Turbines within this height category are likely to dominate</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be compromised by visual intrusion from wind turbine development. Turbines within this</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller scale pattern closer to Aberdeen.</li> <li>Views up to moorland, estates with fine buildings, and traditional settlements.</li> </ul>	<p>farmed character of the valley and detract from the pattern of woodland and pastures in the rolling terraces, and impact on the setting of the landscape for traditional settlements and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>overwhelm the wooded and farmed character of the valley and detract from the pattern of woodland and pastures in the rolling terraces and impact on the setting of the landscape for traditional settlements and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>category would dominate the wooded and farmed character of the valley and detract from the pattern of woodland and pastures in the rolling terraces, and impact on the setting of the landscape for traditional settlements and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the wooded and farmed character of the valley and detract from the pattern of woodland and pastures in the rolling terraces, and impact on the setting of the landscape for traditional settlements and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity: High-medium</b></p>	<p>height category would detract from the pattern of woodland and pastures in the rolling terraces, and impact on the setting of the landscape for traditional settlements and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A well settled landscape forming a sequence of villages, small towns and groups of houses occurring on the valley sides.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from the sequence of villages, towns and groups of houses occurring on the valley sides. Very tall turbines would overwhelm the</p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from the sequence of villages, towns and groups of houses occurring on the valley sides. Turbines within this height</p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from the sequence of villages, towns and groups of houses occurring on the valley sides. Turbines</p>	<p>This typology severely intrude the landscape and detract from the sequence of villages, towns and groups of houses occurring on the valley sides. Turbines within this height category could overwhelm</p>	<p>This typology would visually intrude on the landscape and detract from the sequence of villages, towns and groups of houses occurring on the valley sides.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>

	<p>small settlements and groups of houses, severely impacting on their setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>category would overwhelm the small settlements and groups of houses, severely impacting on their setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>within this height category could overwhelm the small settlements and groups of houses, severely impacting on their setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>the small settlements and groups of houses, adversely impacting on their setting.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly scenic landscape of broadleaved woodland, numerous estates with fine buildings, attractive traditional settlements and the sparkling, shingly river.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to the Grampians, and part of the overall setting for and 'gateway' to the Cairngorms National Park - the landscape continues upstream through Deeside as the <i>Broad Wooded Valley with Estates</i> LCT.</li> <li>Setting for Lower Deeside towns, villages and estates.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear prominent, and significantly affect views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role which is inextricably linked to being a 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear prominent, and significantly affect views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role which is inextricably linked to being a 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear prominent, and significantly affect views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role which is inextricably linked to being a 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines within this height category would appear prominent, and adversely impact on views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role which is inextricably linked to being a 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines would appear prominent, in particular where the landscape is smaller in scale and more enclosed. Views would be significantly affected within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role which is inextricably linked to being a 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

		(125m-<200m)		(50-<80m)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High population of residential receptors.</li> <li>Busy transport corridor and high number of visitors, in particular to the Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and walkers/cyclists on Deeside Way.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. There would be erosion of the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and adversely impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. There would be erosion of the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and adversely impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. There would be erosion of the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and adversely impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. There would be erosion of the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and adversely impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion relative to the smaller scale and more enclosed nature of the landscape in its broader valley setting. The development would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and adversely impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long views across Deeside and up to surrounding uplands, contrasting with sudden enclosure by woodland which contain the views.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads</p>	<p>The typology would cause visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied</p>

	and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands are unlikely to be large enough to screen large structures.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from higher ground, Cairngorm National Park and higher level roads.</li> </ul>	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion, compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	Introduction of turbines of this size would add visual clutter and could compromise views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>

<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous designations - Special Landscape Area, Special Area of Conservation, SSSI, Ancient Woodland, Scheduled Ancient Monuments</li> <li>Deeside Way, core paths, main access for visitors to Cairngorm National Park and Castle &amp; Victoria Trails, area used by local residential population for formal/informal recreation.</li> <li>Strong historic association of the valley with numerous castles and estates, and archaeological remains.</li> <li>Perceptual qualities of a large scale river valley overall, well settled with traditional estates creating the impression of a well settled and prosperous area.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the role of the landscape which is inextricably linked to defining Aberdeenshire's landscape identity. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations, adversely impacting on recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the role of the landscape which is inextricably linked to defining Aberdeenshire's landscape identity. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations, adversely impacting on recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would severely diminish the role of the landscape which is inextricably linked to defining Aberdeenshire's landscape identity. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations, adversely impacting on recreational and community associations.</p>	<p>The development type would diminish the role of the landscape which is inextricably linked to defining Aberdeenshire's landscape identity. There would be significant impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations, adversely impacting on recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>There could be localised impact from the development type by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations, adversely impacting on recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>

			<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  <b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>

**Assessment Unit:** **Landscape Character Type:** [32 - Farmed and Wooded River Valleys](#)

Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- The LCT combines two former valley areas *Deveron and Upper Ythan Valleys* and *Deveron and Bogie Straths*.
- 2014 Study conclusion for ‘base landscape capacity’ was ‘no capacity’ in the former, and ‘low capacity’ for the latter - for turbine height to 50m.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to small, open character between Turrif and Fyvie, with River Deveron more contained by rolling hills.</li> <li>• A moorland backdrop lends a grand sense of scale.</li> </ul>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape, including the more open broad shallow valley areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape, including the more open broad shallow valley areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would excessively dominate this landscape, including the more open broad shallow valley areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would dominate this landscape, including the more open broad shallow valley areas.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The development type would visually intrude the landscape, in particular where the valley is more contained by rolling hills.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>

		(125m-<200m)		(50-<80m)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinct valley form, predominantly shallow and wide valleys bounded by broad rolling hills.</li> <li>The River Ythan flows through a narrow gorge to the east, and the upper Deveron to the west lies within a deeper valley.</li> </ul>	<p>This scale of turbine would excessively dominate the landscape, and erode integrity of this distinctive river valley character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This scale of turbine would excessively dominate the landscape, and erode integrity of this distinctive river valley character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This scale of turbine would significantly dominate the landscape, and erode integrity of this distinctive river valley character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This scale of turbine would dominate the landscape, and erode integrity of this distinctive river valley character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development type would detract from the landscape's distinguishing landform features, and erode the integrity of its river valley character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A mosaic of different land uses, but the straths are largely regular patterned farmland on the flood plain, with hedges and post and wire fences.</li> <li>Mixed deciduous and coniferous woodlands clothe the valley sides and are well-related to landform.</li> <li>Agricultural land extends to the river's edge and settlements such as Turriff,</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be severely compromised by very tall turbines which would excessively dominate, visually detract from, and erode, the farmed and wooded character of the valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be severely compromised by turbines within this height category which would excessively dominate, visually detract from, and erode, the farmed and wooded character of the valley.</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be significantly compromised by turbines within this height category which would dominate, visually detract from, and erode, the farmed and wooded character of the valley.</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be compromised by turbines within this height category which would visually detract from, and erode, the farmed and wooded character of the valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be compromised by the development type which would visually detract from, and erode, the farmed and wooded character of the valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>

Rothienorman and Fyvie occupy the slopes.		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Development</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well settled landscape.</li> <li>Roads run alongside the rivers and small towns such as Fyvie, Turriff and Huntly are concentrated at confluences and bridging points.</li> <li>Farms are evenly dispersed along the straths.</li> <li>Quiet roads such as along the Deveron Valley contrast with the busy A947 between Fyvie and Turriff.</li> </ul>	<p>The even dispersal of buildings and other small features across this well-settled landscape increases sensitivity to turbine development. Turbines of this size would significantly impact on the distinctive setting this landscape provides for settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The even dispersal of buildings and other small features across this well-settled landscape increases sensitivity to turbine development. Turbines of this size would significantly impact on the distinctive setting this landscape provides for settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The even dispersal of buildings and other small features across this well-settled landscape increases sensitivity to turbine development. Turbines within this height category would significantly impact the distinctive setting this landscape provides for settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The even dispersal of buildings and other small features across this well-settled landscape increases sensitivity to turbine development. Turbines of this size would adversely impact the distinctive setting this landscape provides for settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>The even dispersal of buildings and other small features across this well-settled landscape increases sensitivity to turbine development. There may be some opportunity for introducing the development type without causing widespread or severe impact on the landscape setting for settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An attractive river valley with a high degree of integrity. A mix of well-maintained farmland, broadleaved policy woodland and winding rivers.</li> <li>Farmland contrasts with the surrounding moorland.</li> <li>There are patches of neglected farmland.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Landscape Context</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forming an extension of the expansive agricultural heartlands of Aberdeenshire, the valley defines the edge of other landscape character types.</li> <li>Setting for some towns such as Banff, Turriff, Huntly and</li> </ul>	<p>This LCT forms a significant feature within the extensive agricultural heartlands, and flowing out to sea at Macdfuff. The development type would cause extensive adverse</p>	<p>This LCT forms a significant feature within the extensive agricultural heartlands, and flowing out to sea at Macdfuff. The development type would cause</p>	<p>This LCT forms a significant feature within the extensive agricultural heartlands, and flowing out to sea at Macdfuff. The development type would cause</p>	<p>This LCT forms a significant feature within the extensive agricultural heartlands, and flowing out to sea at Macdfuff. The development type would cause</p>	<p>This LCT forms a significant feature within the extensive agricultural heartlands, and flowing out to sea at Macdfuff. The development type would bring visual clutter into the</p>

foreground to the surrounding moorland areas.	impacts on the landscape as setting for settlements, and intrude the wider landscape.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	extensive adverse impacts on the landscape as setting for settlements, and intrude the wider landscape.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	adverse impacts on the landscape as setting for settlements, and intrude the wider landscape.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	adverse impacts on the landscape as setting for settlements, and intrude the wider landscape.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	landscape and adversely impact on the landscape setting for settlements.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium/high population of residential receptors, and population moving through the landscape</li> <li>• Visitors using national cycle route, tourist and castle trail and visiting Historic Garden and Designed Landscapes.</li> </ul>	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion, eroding the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion, eroding the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion, eroding the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.	Introduction of turbines of this size would cause visual intrusion, eroding the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	The development type would add visual clutter, erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population, and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>

	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good visibility along river valley and down from the valley sides.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines of this size would be highly visible in views along these valleys from roads and settlements. The well-settled nature of this valley and its popularity for local recreational use and by visitors, increases visual sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this size would be highly visible in views along these valleys from roads and settlements. The well-settled nature of this valley and its popularity for local recreational use and by visitors, increases visual sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this size would be highly visible in views along these valleys from roads and settlements. The well-settled nature of this valley and its popularity for local recreational use and by visitors, increases visual sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines of this size would be highly visible in views along these valleys from roads and settlements. The well-settled nature of this valley and its popularity for local recreational use and by visitors, increases visual sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines would introduce visual clutter into views along these valleys from roads and settlements. The well-settled nature of this valley and its popularity for local recreational use and by visitors, increases visual sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from landscapes in the wider setting, and from nearby towns.</li> </ul>	Introduction of very tall turbines into this landscape	Introduction of the development type into this	Introduction of the development type into this landscape	Introduction of the development type into this landscape	Introduction of the development type into this landscape

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from (Clashmach Hill, Hills of Foudland) and Daugh of Cairnborrow (The Bin).</li> </ul>	<p>would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion in the wider landscape, compromising views from distinctive summits and high level tracts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>landscape would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion in the wider landscape, compromising views from distinctive summits and high level tracts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>would cause extensive visual intrusion in the wider landscape, compromising views from distinctive summits and high level tracts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>would visually intrude upon the wider landscape setting, and could compromise views from distinctive summits and high level tracts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>	<p>would bring visual clutter into the landscape and could compromise the role of landscape as setting for nearby towns. There may be some potential to accommodate change from the development type without widespread or severe impacts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium-low</b></p>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Much of the LCT is designated Deveron Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA) which acknowledges the high scenic quality of the meandering River Deveron bounded by rolling wooded hills, setting to</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction turbines of this size category into the landscape would detract from the qualifying features of the SLA, and intrude upon the</p>	<p>Introduction of the development type into the landscape would detract from the qualifying features of the SLA, and intrude</p>	<p>Introduction of the development type into the landscape would detract from the qualifying features of the SLA, and intrude upon the</p>	<p>Introduction of the development type into the landscape would detract from the qualifying features of the SLA, and intrude upon the</p>	<p>Introduction of the development type into the landscape would detract from the qualifying features of the SLA, and intrude upon the recreational</p>

<p>settlements, and backdrop to castles and estates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes; Duff House, Hatton Castle, Forglen, and Fyvie Castle and associated views.</li> <li>• Some SSSI, SAMs and AWIs.</li> <li>• Banff and Conservation Areas.</li> <li>• Areas used by local residential population for informal recreation, core paths and visitors cycling the National Cycle Network (North Sea Cycle Route) and travelling on the CastleTrail.</li> <li>• An attractive, well maintained river valley landscape. A distinctive backdrop to some settlements.</li> </ul>	<p>recreational enjoyment and appreciation of the numerous historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>upon the recreational enjoyment and appreciation of the numerous historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>recreational enjoyment and appreciation of the numerous historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>recreational enjoyment and appreciation of the numerous historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>enjoyment and appreciation of the numerous historical, cultural and natural designations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>	<p><b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>	<p><b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b></p> <p><b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b></p>

<b>(landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):</b>					
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<b>Assessment Unit:</b>	<b>Landscape Character Type:</b> <a href="#">33 - Broad Wooded Valley with Estates</a>
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Notes from the 2014 Capacity Study:

- The LCT combines three former Landscape Character Areas: *Deeside*; *Muir of Dinnet*; and *Upper Deeside Estates*.
- 2014 Study conclusion for ‘base landscape capacity’ was ‘no capacity’ for wind turbine development over 15m height for all areas.

<b>Assessment criteria – factors considered</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis</b>				
<b>1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b>					
<b>Scale (primarily in character but also in terms of geographical size)</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale valley landform overall, but scale varying throughout.</li> <li>• Sense of scale strongly influenced by the woodland valley landscape creating a sense of enclosure.</li> </ul>	<p>This development type would excessively dominate the valley which, although broad scale overall, has an open character within an enclosed landform. This containment is enhanced by elements such as woodland.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This development type would excessively dominate the valley which, although broad scale overall, has an open character within an enclosed landform. This containment is enhanced by elements such as woodland.</p>	<p>This development type would dominate the valley which, although broad scale overall, has an open character within an enclosed landform. This containment is enhanced by elements such as woodland.</p>	<p>This development type could dominate the landscape which, although broad scale overall, has an open character within an enclosed landform. This containment is enhanced by elements such as woodland.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would add visual clutter to the landscape. The large scale valley could potentially accommodate the development type in parts without widespread adverse impacts.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>

		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		
<b>Landform</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The broad River Dee is a prominent feature, creating a wide open valley landform, which becomes narrower and steeper to the west.</li> <li>Valley sides of undulating slopes and hills.</li> <li>Low rounded, flat topped hills to the south of the River Dee, westwards the landscape assumes a more Highland character.</li> </ul>	<p>This river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. The typology would excessively visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. The typology would excessively visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. The typology would visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This river valley landscape is highly susceptible to change from the development type. The typology would visually dominate, and diminish the integrity of the undulating, wooded river valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape could potentially accommodate this typology in very small parts within the lower slopes without causing visual disruption or detracting from the integrity of the landform.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<b>Land cover - pattern, elements and features</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong pattern where thick broadleaved woodlands cover the valley sides.</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be severely</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern would be</p>	<p>The integrity of the landscape pattern could be</p>	<p>There may be some potential to accommodate</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A richly wooded landscape with pockets of open agricultural landscape, notably along the Water of Feugh.</li> <li>• Settlement and roads together with numerous estates run along the valley floor.</li> <li>• In Upper Deeside and towards the Cairngorms, extensive woodland covers the hills, predominantly conifer plantations.</li> <li>• Heather and bracken covers the tops of some of the small hills and areas of open ground within woodlands.</li> <li>• To the east there are small pastures enclosed by stone dykes.</li> </ul>	<p>compromised by this typology. Turbines of this size would appear prominent, and significantly detract from the richly wooded backdrop on the valley sides which form an integral feature of the landscape and setting for historic estates and traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>severely compromised by this typology. Turbines of this size would appear prominent, and significantly detract from the richly wooded backdrop on the valley sides which form an integral feature of the landscape and setting for historic estates and traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>significantly compromised by this typology. Turbines of this size would appear prominent, and significantly detract from the richly wooded backdrop on the valley sides which form an integral feature of the landscape and setting for historic estates and traditional settlements.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>compromised by this typology. The development could disrupt and detract from the wooded character of the valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>	<p>smaller turbines in some locations, in small parts without impacting on the existing framework of trees and development.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Development</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well settled landscape, with towns and villages such as Banchory and Kincardine O'Neil.</li> <li>• The sequence of traditional villages and numerous large country houses and estates are a key feature of this landscape.</li> <li>• Traditional transport, communication and tourist 'gateway' route from Aberdeen into the heart of the Grampians - A93, minor roads and heritage railway.</li> <li>• Telecommunications masts visible in the distance.</li> </ul>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from and overwhelm the numerous villages, towns and grand estates in this well settled landscape, adversely affecting their setting scale and/or historic character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would excessively dominate the landscape and detract from and overwhelm the numerous villages, towns and grand estates in this well settled landscape, adversely affecting their setting scale and/or historic character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would significantly dominate the landscape and compromise the setting of the numerous villages, towns and grand estates in this well settled landscape, adversely affecting their scale and/or historic character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This typology would detract from the numerous villages, towns and grand estates in this well settled landscape, affecting their setting scale and/or historic character.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would detract from the setting of villages, towns and estates in this well settled landscape. However, turbines at the lower end of the height threshold could potentially be sited in small parts without causing visual intrusion.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attractive traditional settlements and the sparkling, shingly river.</li> <li>• Highly scenic landscape of broadleaved woodland, numerous estates with fine buildings, grand gatehouses</li> </ul>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant erosion of the overall character of this well</p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant</p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is highly sensitive to change from the development type. There would be significant</p>	<p>The integrity of this landscape is sensitive to change from the development type and erosion of the overall character of this well</p>	<p>There may be some potential to accommodate change in small parts without impacting on the integrity of the landscape, where</p>

<p>and often long avenues of beech trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attractive traditional farmsteads in more remote parts.</li> <li>• Conifer monoculture reduces the quality in parts.</li> </ul>	<p>managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>erosion of the overall character of this well managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>managed, highly scenic landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>turbines could be sited where not causing visual disruption or distraction from the scenic qualities of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<p><b>Landscape Context</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main access to the Grampians, and setting for the Cairngorms National Park.</li> <li>• Setting for some towns, villages and estates.</li> </ul>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear prominent, and significantly affect views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role as 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear prominent, and significantly affect views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role as 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p>	<p>Turbines at this scale would appear prominent, and significantly affect views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would severely erode the quality of this landscape's role as 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p>	<p>Turbines at this scale could adversely impact on views within and across the landscape to its wider setting. This would erode the quality of this landscape's role as 'gateway' to the Grampians, and as a setting for towns, villages and estates.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>This river valley landscape is susceptible to change from the development type, both within it and close by. There may be some potential to accommodate change in small parts, where turbines could be sited in locations where avoiding visual disruption of, and distraction from, the scenic</p>

		<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	<b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>		qualities of the landscape. <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Overall rating landscape character sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>2. VISUAL AMENITY</b>					
<b>Settlements, routes and viewpoints ('receptors')</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notable population of residential receptors adjacent / near.</li> <li>• High level of population movement through the landscape, and very high number of visitors accessing Cairngorm National Park.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion. This would erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The development type would visually intrude upon and erode the quality of the landscape setting for the local population and impact on recreational enjoyment for visitors.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape may be able to accommodate development of this type in small parts without compromising the wooded backdrop and undeveloped skyline setting to the Dee Valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>Internal Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>

	<b>Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>(80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varied visibility due to landform and trees / woodland.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause visual intrusion across the valley from roads and settlement. Although varied visibility within and throughout the landscape, the trees and woodlands would not be large enough to screen large structures.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>The landscape may be able to accommodate development of this type in small parts without compromising the wooded backdrop and undeveloped skyline setting to the Dee Valley.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: Medium</b></p>
<b>External Visibility</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible from higher ground, Cairngorms National Park and higher level roads.</li> </ul>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion,</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion,</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause significant and extensive visual intrusion,</p>	<p>Introduction of turbines of this size would cause visual intrusion, compromising views from higher</p>	<p>In some small parts, the landform and woodland could potentially accommodate the development type</p>

	compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High</b>	without compromising views from higher level roads and from the Cairngorms National Park.  <b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b>
<b>Overall rating visual sensitivity:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>3. LANDSCAPE VALUE</b>					
<b>Designations, community, cultural and perceptual value</b>	<b>Assessment: Very large turbines (200m+)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large/very large turbines (125m-&lt;200m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Large turbines (80-&lt;125m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Medium/large turbines (50-&lt;80m)</b>	<b>Assessment: Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dee Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA) designation emphasises the importance of the River Dee for tourism and recreation, with its rich scenery and strong historic associations contributing a strong sense of identity.</li> <li>Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes surrounding Inchmarlo (Views are south across the River Dee to the Blackhall Forest and the Scolty Monument and west to the Grampian Mountains) and</li> </ul>	The development type would severely diminish the role of the landscape for defining Aberdeenshire's landscape identity. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its many historical, cultural and natural designations. There would also be	The development type would severely diminish the role of the landscape for defining Aberdeenshire's landscape identity. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its	The development type would severely diminish the role of the landscape for defining Aberdeenshire's landscape identity. There would be significant and widespread impact by detracting from the qualifying features and attributes of its	The development type would detract from the qualifying features and attributes of the many historical, cultural and natural designations associated with this landscape, adversely impacting on its recreational and community value.	This development type could impact on policy woodlands and setting of designed landscapes, although there may be some limited opportunities to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology where the development would not impact on the qualifying features of designations.

<p>Crathes Castle (long views south-east across the River Dee to the Durris Forest which rises to the hill of Cairn- men- earn and south towards Mongour Hill).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Areas at Kincardine O'Neil, Aboyne</li> <li>• Scheduled Ancient Monuments, SAC, SSSIs and Ancient Woodland.</li> <li>• Deeside Way, core paths, main access for visitors to Cairngorm National Park and Castle &amp; Victoria Trails, area used by local residential population for formal/informal recreation.</li> <li>• Historic interest linked with Queen Victoria, Crathes Castle and traditional villages such as Kincardine O'Neil.</li> <li>• A well wooded landscape with occasional views up to the surrounding moorland and hills. The river valley with its broadleaved woodland and traditional estates creates the</li> </ul>	<p>significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>many historical, cultural and natural designations. There would also be significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p>many historical, cultural and natural designations. There would also be significant disruption of the landscape's recreational and community associations.</p> <p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: High</b></p>	<p><b>Sensitivity rating: High-medium</b></p>
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impression of a well settled and prosperous area.					
<b>Overall rating landscape value:</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High-medium</b>
<b>OVERALL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT PER WIND TURBINE TYPOLOGY</b>  (landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value combined):	<b>Very large turbines (200m+):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large/very large turbines (125-&lt;200m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Large turbines (80-&lt;125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Medium/large turbines (50-125m):</b>  <b>HIGH</b>	<b>Small/medium turbines (30-&lt;50m):</b>  <b>HIGH-MEDIUM</b>