

APPENDIX 1

APPLICATION NUMBER – 14/00669/FULL

APPLICANT- MR GREG YARR

PROPOSAL & ADDRESS – ERECTION OF 2 WIND TURBINES OF 50 METRES TO HUB HEIGHT AND 74 METRES TO BLADE TIP, TEMPORARY ANEMOMETER MAST AND ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT AT LAND 600M WEST OF WITTON FARM, LETHNOT, EDZELL

ANGUS COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION

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Angus Council

Application Number:	14/00669/FULL
Description of Development:	Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip, temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development
Site Address:	Land 600M West Of Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell
Grid Ref:	355492 : 770004
Applicant Name:	Mr Greg Yarr

Report of Handling**Site Description**

The application site is located approximately 5km to the north west of Edzell, on farmland 600m to the west of Witton Farm. The site is situated within agricultural land adjacent to the C34 classified roadway between Edzell and Bridgend. The site is located at a ground level of approximately 170-180 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) some 220 metres to the north of the roadway.

Proposal

The application proposes the erection of two 800kW wind turbines with hub heights of 50 metres, a rotor diameter of 48 metres and an overall height of 74 metres to blade tip. The turbine is of three blade design. The associated development proposed provides for a temporary anemometer mast, an improved and extended access track and crane hardstandings at the base of the proposed turbines. Improvements to the access track include the provision of a widened bellmouth junction where it meets the C34.

The application has not been subject of variation.

Publicity

The application was subject to normal neighbour notification procedures.

The application was advertised in the Dundee Courier on 29 August 2014 for the following reasons:

- Schedule 3 Development

The nature of the proposal did not require a site notice to be posted.

Planning History

Application 13/00257/FULL for Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip, temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development was "Withdrawn" on 29 August 2013.

Applicant's Case

As part of the application an Environment and Planning Report (August 2014) was submitted which includes information relating to the wind turbine specification, photomontages of the proposed turbine and noise information. This document explains the proposal including the associated development proposed to facilitate the construction and operation of a wind turbine on the site. It provides a policy and guidance context for the consideration of a wind turbine proposal in this landscape character type. The document

concludes that noise for the proposed development is predicted to meet the relevant criteria at all wind speeds at all noise sensitive receptors. The landscape and visual assessment provided concludes that the proposed wind cluster would have a slight adverse landscape and visual impact on the overall study area, which is considered not significant.

The applicant has also submitted a response to the comments received from the Natural & Built Environment - Landscape Team. The response states that the siting and appearance of the proposed wind turbines have been chosen to minimise the impacts on amenity; there will be no unacceptable adverse landscape and visual impacts having regard to landscape character, setting within the immediate and wider landscape, and sensitive viewpoints; and there will be no unacceptable detrimental effect on residential amenity.

Consultations

Community Council - Inveresk Community Council object to the application noting concerns regarding visual impact on the surrounding area, breach of the guidelines contained in the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus, turbines would be close to the main route taken to Glen Lethnot, would dominate and overwhelm the scale of the surrounding landscape, impact on the Brown and White Caterthuns, compliance with Scottish Government guidance, impact on wildlife, transport issues, little economic benefit and the area is relatively free from wind turbine development.

Angus Council - Roads - Has offered no objections to the proposal subject to conditions.

Scottish Water - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

NERL Safeguarding - No objection.

Ministry Of Defence - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

Dundee Airport Ltd - No objection.

Scottish Natural Heritage - No objection.

Angus Council Environmental Health - The Environmental Health Service has offered no objections to the proposal subject to conditions. However, it should be noted that Tillydovie Cottage will exceed the derived noise limits at 7m/s and a noise mitigation scheme is to be proposed.

Civil Aviation Authority - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

RSPB Scotland - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

Spectrum - No objection.

Atkins - No objection.

Joint Radio Co Ltd - No objection.

Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service - No objection.

Historic Scotland - Archaeology - No objection.

Wayleave Officer - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

British Telecom - No objection.

Tayside Police Legal Services - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report

preparation.

MII Telecom Ltd - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

Airwave Solutions Limited - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

Arqiva Limited - No objection.

Vodafone Ltd - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

Everything Everywhere - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

Cable & Wireless Communications - There was no response from this consultee at the time of report preparation.

Representations

A representation has been received from the Inveresk Community Council and it is referenced under consultations above.

Development Plan Policies

Angus Local Plan Review 2009

Policy S1 : Development Boundaries
Policy S3 : Design Quality
Policy S6 : Development Principles (Schedule 1)
Policy ER4 : Wider Natural Heritage and Biodiversity
Policy ER5 : Conservation of Landscape Character
Policy ER11 : Noise Pollution
Policy ER16 : Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building
Policy ER18 : Archaeological Sites of National Importance
Policy ER19 : Archaeological Sites of Local Importance
Policy ER30 : Agricultural Land
Policy ER34 : Renewable Energy Developments
Policy ER35 : Wind Energy Developments

TAYplan Strategic Development plan

Policy 3D : Natural and Historic Assets
Policy 6C : Consider Criteria as Minimum

Proposed Angus Local Development Plan

Angus Council is progressing with preparation of a Local Development Plan to provide up to date Development Plan coverage for Angus. When adopted, the Angus Local Development Plan (ALDP) will replace the current adopted Angus Local Plan Review (ALPR). The Draft Proposed Angus Local Development Plan was considered by Angus Council at its meeting on 11 December with a view to it being approved and published as the Proposed ALDP for a statutory period for representations. The Draft Proposed ALDP sets out policies and proposals for the 2016-2026 period consistent with the strategic framework provided by the approved TAYplan SDP(June 2012) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) published in June 2014. The Proposed ALDP, as approved by Angus Council, will be subject to a 9 week period for representation commencing in February 2015. Any unresolved representations received during this statutory consultation period are likely to be considered at an Examination by an independent Reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers. The Council must accept the conclusions and

recommendations of the Reporter before proceeding to adopt the plan. Only in exceptional circumstances can the Council choose not to do this. The Proposed ALDP represents Angus Council's settled view in relation to the appropriate use of land within the Council area. As such, it will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The Proposed ALDP is, however, at a stage in the statutory process of preparation where it may be subject to further modification. Limited weight can therefore currently be attached to its contents. This may change following the period of representation when the level and significance of any objection to policies and proposals of the plan will be known.

The full text of the relevant development plan policies can be viewed at Appendix 1 to this report.

Assessment

Sections 25 and 37(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 require that planning decisions be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

In this case the development plan comprises: -

- o TAYplan (Approved 2012);
- o Angus Local Plan Review (Adopted 2009)

In addition to the Development Plan a number of matters will also be particularly relevant to the consideration of the application and these include: -

- o National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3);
- o Scottish Planning Policy (SPP);
- o Scottish Government 'Specific Advice Sheet' on Onshore Wind Turbines;
- o Tayside Landscape Character Assessment;
- o Angus Council Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Proposals (2012);
- o Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus (Ironsides Farrar - 2014);
- o Angus Wind farms Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impacts Study (Ironsides Farrar, 2008);
- o Siting and Design of Small Scale Wind Turbines of Between 15 and 50 metres in height (SNH, March 2012);
- o Siting and Designing wind farms in the landscape (Version 2, SNH, May 2014)
- o Assessing The Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (SNH, March 2012)
- o Planning Advice Note 1/2011: Planning and Noise;

NPF3 states that the Government is committed to a Low Carbon Scotland and through the priorities identified in the spatial strategy set a clear direction to tackling climate change through national planning policy. Renewable energy technologies, including onshore wind, are identified as key aspects to realising this aim whilst recognising that a planned approach to development is required to find the correct balance between safeguarding assets which are irreplaceable while facilitating change in a sustainable way.

The Scottish Planning Policy (SPP, June 2014) represents a statement of government policy on land use planning. In relation to onshore wind, the SPP states that 'Planning authorities should set out in the development plan a spatial framework identifying areas that are likely to be most appropriate for onshore wind farms... The spatial framework is complemented by a more detailed and exacting development management process where the merits of an individual proposal will be carefully considered against the full range of environmental, community and cumulative impacts... proposals for onshore wind should continue to be determined while spatial frameworks are and local policies are being prepared and updated'. Proposals for energy infrastructure developments should always take account of spatial frameworks for wind farms and heat maps where these are relevant. Considerations will vary relative to the scale of the proposal and area characteristics but are likely to include:

- o net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities;

- o the scale of contribution to renewable energy generation targets;
- o effect on greenhouse gas emissions;
- o cumulative impacts - planning authorities should be clear about likely cumulative impacts arising from all of the considerations below, recognising that in some areas the cumulative impact of existing and consented energy development may limit the capacity for further development;
- o impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including visual impact, residential amenity, noise and shadow flicker;
- o landscape and visual impacts, including effects on wild land;
- o effects on the natural heritage, including birds;
- o impacts on carbon rich soils, using the carbon calculator;
- o public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes identified in the NPF;
- o impacts on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings;
- o impacts on tourism and recreation;
- o impacts on aviation and defence interests and seismological recording;
- o impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;
- o impacts on road traffic;
- o impacts on adjacent trunk roads;
- o effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;
- o the need for conditions relating to the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;
- o opportunities for energy storage; and
- o the need for a robust planning obligation to ensure that operators achieve site restoration.

The Scottish Government's Planning Advice Notes relating to renewable energy have been replaced by Specific Advice Sheets (SAS). The 'Onshore Wind Turbines SAS' identifies typical planning considerations in determining planning applications for onshore wind turbines. The considerations identified in the SAS are similar to those identified by policies ER34 and ER35 of the ALPR and the SPP as detailed above.

Angus Council has produced an Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Proposals. It provides guidance for development proposals ranging from small single turbines to major wind farms. It indicates that wind developments are the primary area of renewable energy proposals in Angus and the planning considerations are strongly influenced by the scale and location of the proposal including landscape and visual impact, potential adverse effects on designated natural and built heritage sites, protected species, residential amenity, soils, water bodies and access.

Scottish Natural Heritage in conjunction with Angus and Aberdeenshire Councils commissioned Ironside Farrar to review current landscape sensitivity and capacity guidance in relation to wind energy development. The Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus (March 2014) provides updated information on landscape capacity for wind energy development and the potential cumulative impact of proposals in the context of operational and consented developments.

Proposals for wind turbine developments and associated infrastructure are primarily assessed against policies ER34 and ER35 of the ALPR although other policies within the plan are also relevant. The policy position provides a presumption in favour of renewable energy developments recognising the contribution wind energy can make in generating renewable energy in Scotland. These policies also require consideration of impacts on ecology including birds; cultural heritage including listed buildings, scheduled monuments, designed landscapes and archaeology; aviation; amenity in the context of shadow flicker, noise and reflected light; landscape and visual impact including cumulative impacts; future site restoration; transmitting or receiving systems; any associated works including transmissions lines, road and traffic access/safety and the environmental impact of this. These policy tests overlap matters contained in other policies and are discussed on a topic by topic basis below.

Environmental and Economic Benefits

Policy 6 of TAYplan indicates that one of its aims for the city region is to deliver a low/zero carbon future and contribute to meeting Scottish Government energy and waste targets. The local plan indicates that Angus Council supports the principle of developing sources of renewable energy in appropriate locations. The SPP sets out a "commitment to increase the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources" and includes a target for the equivalent of 100% of Scotland's electricity demand to be generated from renewable sources by 2020 along with a target of 30% of overall energy demand from renewable sources by 2020. Paragraph 154 of the SPP indicates that planning authorities should help to reduce emissions and energy use in new buildings and from new infrastructure by enabling development at appropriate locations that contributes to electricity and heat from renewable sources.

In this instance the supporting information contained within the 'Environment and Planning Report (August 2014)' indicates the development of a wind turbine would allow the applicant to diversify the existing farm enterprise ensuring the long term stability of the farm for the immediate and extended family, staff and contractors employed throughout the year. The annual generation from the proposed turbines is estimated at approximately 4.0 gigawatt-hours (GWh) based on a capacity factor of 27.9 %. This would mean a reduction of 2,300 tonnes of carbon per annum which would contribute to Scottish Government and Local Authority climate change targets. In terms of economic benefits to the local area the supporting information notes that these are expected to be moderate/minor in Angus, which could benefit from £0.8 million and 7 job years. It is accepted that the proposed turbine could make a contribution towards renewable energy generation and as such the proposal attracts in-principle support from the local plan. I have had regard to that contribution in undertaking my assessment of the proposal.

Landscape Impacts

TAYplan Policy 3 seeks amongst other things to safeguard landscapes and to allow development where it does not adversely impact on or preferably enhances the asset. Local Plan Policy ER5 (Conservation of Landscape Character) requires development proposals to take account of the guidance provided by the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (TLCA), prepared for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in 1999, and indicates that, where appropriate, sites selected should be capable of absorbing the proposed development to ensure that it fits into the landscape. Policy ER34 of the Local Plan indicates that proposals for renewable energy development will be assessed on the basis of no unacceptable adverse landscape and visual impacts having regard to landscape character, setting within the immediate and wider landscape, and sensitive viewpoints.

The Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (TLCA) identifies that the application site lies within the "Highland Foothills Landscape Character Type" (LCT). This LCT marks the transition of the Mounth Highlands to the lowland of Strathmore. The complex geology of this area is said to lead to a landscape of steep whale-backed hills with intervening valleys, generally oriented on an east west axis. In this LCT, the hills in the east are most distinct and in the west between Dunkeld and Blairgowrie they are less well defined. The TLCA describes forces for change in this LCT. In respect of tall structures, the TLCA indicates that the Highland Foothills LCT is comparatively free from tall structures with the exception of the high voltage overhead electricity line which climbs in the foothills near Airlie before running north east through the hills. The TLCA acknowledges that development here could avoid the need to locate turbines in even more sensitive upland areas, or in less sensitive, but more populated areas closer to settlements. It would also mean that, from a distance, turbines would be viewed against a backdrop of higher ground. However, the insensitive development of wind turbines in this area would conflict with the small scale, historic and deeply rural character of the landscape. It would also weaken and confuse the area's role of providing a transition from the unsettled uplands to the fertile and settled lowland.

The Council's Renewable Energy Implementation Guide indicates that the Highland Foothills provide a dramatic transition between highland and lowland. Whilst the Foothills appear big next to Strathmore, they are relatively low lying hills. In order to avoid the risk of turbines adversely affecting perceived scale, it is considered that there is scope for turbines less than circa 80m tall located on lower ground only, where they do not adversely affect the setting of landscape features and monuments such as Airlie Monument

and the White & Brown Caterthuns.

The Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus (SLCWE) classifies the area within which the turbines are proposed as Tay 5 Highland Foothills (LCT). Within that individual Landscape Character Areas (LCA) are identified. The site is identified as being within the Edzell Hill LCA (Sub-Area). The SLCWE identifies that the Edzell foothills is the smallest of the LCA's identified within the Highland Foothills (LCT) and is only suitable for turbines below 50m due to their limited scale. As indicated in the LVIA submission, the site is close to both the Mid Highland Glens LCT and the Highland Summits and Plateaux LCT. In the vicinity of the site, the Highland Foothills LCT occupies a narrow strip between the other two LCTs around 500m wide. This part of the LCT has much of the same characteristics of the Mid Highland Glens LCT. It is the lower part of Glen Lethnot and is characterised as a glaciated valley enclosed by relatively low hills to both the north and south. Land-use tends to be pasture with rectilinear plantation woodland and more sinuous broadleaved woodland along the course of the West Water and its tributaries. Landscape scale is typically small close to the river becoming medium on the higher ground. Locally, views are corridor in character, being linear along the valley. The modest scale, together with corridor views limits the scope for larger turbines.

In this instance the proposed turbines would be 74 metres to blade tip and located at a ground level of between 170 -180 metres AOD. The SLCWE advises that the height of turbines should relate to the scale of the landscape with particular regard to the vertical scale of the hills. Larger turbines should be located away from the smaller scale hills and valleys to avoid diminishing the apparent scale of the slopes or breaking the skyline. It is considered that the size and position of the proposed turbines within the valley would diminish the apparent scale of the slopes which would result in the turbines becoming dominant gateway features at the lower end of Glen Lethnot. This would be a major effect on the landscape character of Glen Lethnot and its setting.

The White and Brown Caterthuns are important landscape features, both from the east and from Glen Lethnot. The dominant position of the hillforts in the landscape is important to their setting. The position of the turbines at around 100m lower elevation than the hillforts would help reduce the competition for status in the landscape. However, the size of the turbines with moving parts substantially lessens this benefit. There would be localised areas (lower Glen Lethnot) where the turbines would replace the Caterthuns as the dominant landscape features

Therefore, it is considered that the proposed turbines would relate poorly to the scale of the surrounding landscape and that significant adverse effects upon landscape character would occur. The turbines do not accord with the guidance for this area provided in the SLCWE or with the Council's Implementation Guide given their impact on the setting of the Caterthuns. The Council has refused permission for turbines of a similar height in other areas of this landscape character type (The Carrach) on the basis of adverse landscape impacts. The proposal would give rise to impacts that are not consistent with development plan policy.

Visual Impacts

Policy S6 of the Angus Local Plan Review requires that proposals should not give rise to unacceptable visual impacts. Policy ER34 of the Local Plan also indicates that renewable energy development will be assessed on the basis of no unacceptable adverse landscape and visual impacts having regard to landscape character, setting within the immediate and wider landscape, and sensitive viewpoints. In assessing visual impact I consider that it is appropriate to have regard to recent appeal decisions within Angus where this issue has been considered in order to secure a degree of consistency in the decision making process.

Planning appeal decisions have generally accepted that residents should be treated as of high sensitivity in assessing the significance of visual impact. The magnitude of change (and, thus, the significance of the impact they will experience) will vary with the context of the house that they occupy: its distance from the proposed wind farm and orientation in relation to it; the presence of intervening screening from vegetation and other buildings; and the presence of other significant visual features. However it is not only the views

from principal rooms that are of importance as residents also use the space around their house and the impact on occupiers and visitors approaching or leaving the properties must also be considered.

The proposal is supported by a ZTV which suggests that the relatively low ground site within the lower part of a glen substantially reduces visibility of development from the wider landscape. The LVIA describes how this limits views of the proposed turbines. From Strathmore and The Mearns the proposed development, where visible, would be viewed against a backdrop of hills. This would also be the case when viewed from higher ground. This helps lessen the visual effects of the development.

The LVIA assesses 13 viewpoints but there is a weakness in the assessment in that there are no viewpoints from lower ground closer to the proposed development (within 3km). This would have enabled a fuller assessment of the impact of the proposed turbines on the lower part of Glen Lethnot. However, having visited the site and reviewed all of the supporting information it is considered that the proposed turbines would be prominent and in some views the dominant feature in the lower part of Glen Lethnot. The dominance of the turbines in these views would be significant and accentuated by the corridor nature of views in this part of the Glen. Accordingly, whilst it is accepted that the relationship of the proposed turbines within the wider landscape helps reduce their visibility, the proposed turbines would nevertheless be highly prominent in views in the lower part of Glen Lethnot.

In terms of residential properties there are a number of properties located within 2km of the proposed turbines. Properties which are in relatively close proximity to the turbines (10 x turbine height) are Bogton at approximately 250m to the north-west, Oldtown Cottage at approximately 650 metres to the west, Larkhall at approximately 680 metres to the south-west, and to the south-east at Tillydovie the closest property is approximately 480 metres from the closest turbine. A house at Witton Farm which is in the ownership of the applicant is located at approximately 644 metres to the east of the closest turbine.

The closest property to the turbines is located at Bogton. This property is in the ownership of the applicant and the residential use of this property is considered to have been abandoned. This was confirmed by information submitted by the applicant and site visits undertaken in association with the application.

The property Oldtown Cottage is located approximately 650 metres to the west of the nearest turbine and consists of a single storey cottage. The windows and garden areas of the cottage are orientated at right angles to the proposed turbines. The cottage is located at between 240 - 230 AOD and the turbines at between 170-180 AOD to the east of the cottage. Although the cottage is orientated at a right angle to the proposed turbines, the house is located on higher ground and enjoys panoramic views towards the Caterthuns and down the glen towards the coast. The convex landform between the house and the proposed turbines would provide a level of screening, but it is anticipated that a large part of the turbines would be prominent in views down the glen. Given the close proximity together with the relationship with views down the glen, it is considered likely that this house would experience visual effects of major significance.

The property Larkhall is located approximately 680 metres to the south-west of the nearest turbine and consists of a two storey dwelling. The windows and garden areas of the cottage are orientated at right angles to the proposed turbines. The property is located at between 150-160 AOD and the turbines at between 170-180 AOD to the east of the cottage. The main views from the property are obtained towards the south-east, but the proposed turbines would be visible on higher ground from the garden areas of the house above low hedges surrounding bounding the property. Although the property is not orientated directly towards the turbines, the turbine height compared to distance from the property ratio would be such that the visual impacts on this property would be classed as moderate to major in significance.

The properties at Tillydovie lie to the south-east of the proposed turbines at between 130-140 AOD and consist of Tillydovie Cottage, Tillydovie Farmhouse and Tillydovie (new house). Tillydovie Farmhouse is located to the south of the farm complex and the farmhouse and its amenity space is unlikely to gain a direct view of the proposed turbines. Tillydovie Cottage is located approximately 480 metres to the nearest turbine and the main face of the dwelling faces away from the turbines. However, the turbines would be prominent in views from rear windows, rear garden and the parking area associated with the

property. Tillydovie (new house) is located approximately 580 metres to the nearest turbine and is designed to enjoy views in a number of directions including towards the turbines. The turbines would be on higher ground than both of these houses and when combined with their close proximity, would lead to visual impacts on both houses of major significance.

The Caterthuns are a popular visitor attraction in the area. The summits of both provide panoramic views in all directions and as popular viewpoints would be regarded as having a high degree of sensitivity. The turbines would be highly prominent in views from the summits and the visual impact would be significant.

Local plan policy requires proposals to demonstrate that the siting and appearance of the apparatus has been chosen to minimise the impact on amenity, and that there would be no unacceptable adverse visual impacts. For views from within the lower part of Glen Lethnot the proposed turbines would be highly prominent. In addition a number of residents in the vicinity would be exposed to moderate to significant views of the turbines. Visual impact from the popular viewpoints at the Caterthuns would be significant. In this case it is considered that the proposal would give rise to significant visual impacts contrary to development plan policy.

Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts

An assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects is also required by local and national policy. SNH Guidance on 'Assessing The Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments' (March 2012) indicates that cumulative landscape effects can include effects on the physical aspects of the landscape and effects on landscape character. Cumulative visual effects can be caused by combined visibility and/or sequential effects. Combined visibility may be in combination i.e. where several wind farms are in the observers arc of vision or in succession where the observer has to turn to see various wind farms. Sequential effects occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments.

The Renewable Energy Implementation Guide (2012) provides interpretation of the level of turbine development that a LCT is capable of absorbing in cumulative terms. As an acceptable level of change of landscape character the future Wind Energy Landscape Type for this area has been defined as a 'Landscape with Occasional Windfarms'. This is refined and updated by the Strategic Capacity Study for Wind Energy in Angus (2014) which indicates that the Edzell Foothills LCA of the Highland Foothills is considered to have a low landscape capacity for medium turbines (30 - <50m) and no landscape capacity for medium/large turbines (50 - <80m). The LCA is considered to have a low remaining landscape capacity for medium turbines (30 - <50m) and no remaining landscape capacity for medium/large turbines (50 - <80m).

At present there is little significant wind energy development in the area. The proposed two 74m turbines would be around 2.9km from the northern edge of the Brown Caterthun. This would be slightly closer than the 3.05km distance of the two 45m turbines approved at Balrownie, to the south-east of the Brown Caterthun ramparts. Other approved turbines would be slightly further away. This proposal would increase the occurrence of turbines within views from the ramparts of both Caterthuns. The most significant factor is the increase in the proportion of the ramparts which would have views of turbines. However, the cumulative landscape and visual impacts arising from the proposed scheme in combination with any approved or operational turbines would not be unacceptable.

Amenity (Noise/Shadow Flicker/Reflected Light):

Criterion (a) of Policy ER34 requires the siting and appearance of renewable energy apparatus to be chosen to minimise its impact on amenity, while respecting operational efficiency. Policy ER35(c) indicates wind energy developments must have no unacceptable detrimental effect on residential amenity, existing land uses or road safety by reason of shadow flicker, noise or reflected light. Policy S6 Schedule 1 also refers to amenity impacts whilst Policy ER11 deals specifically with noise pollution.

The Environmental Health and Roads Services have raised no concerns regarding such impacts. On this

basis I do not consider that there are any unacceptable amenity impacts from noise, shadow flicker, light, surrounding land uses or road safety that cannot be satisfactorily addressed by conditions.

As indicated above the proposal would give rise to significant visual impacts for occupants of a number of residential properties.

Cultural Heritage

The development plan provides a number of policies that seek to safeguard cultural heritage. Policy 3 of TAYplan seeks to safeguard archaeology, historic buildings and monuments and to allow development where it does not adversely impact upon or preferably enhances these assets. Relevant policies of the Angus Local Plan Review include ER16, ER18 and ER19. Policy ER34 requires proposals for renewable energy development to have no unacceptable detrimental effect on any sites designated for natural heritage, scientific, historic or archaeological reasons.

In relation to Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Edzell Castle is located approximately 3km to the east of the proposed turbines and the White and Brown Caterthuns which are located approximately 2.9km to the south of the site. Historic Scotland has considered the proposal in so far as it relates to potential impact on these nationally important designations and has offered no objections in respect of impacts on the Monuments or on other interests within its remit. Historic Scotland has not objected to the application on the basis that likely impacts are not considered to be of national significance. However, it has acknowledged that the proposed turbines would adversely impact on the setting of these sites. As discussed in relation to landscape and visual impact matters above the Hillforts are of significant interest in the area and I do not consider that it is appropriate to support development that adversely impacts their setting, even where such impact may not be of national significance.

There are listed buildings in the wider area surrounding the application site. However, having regard to the nature of those buildings and their setting, it is not considered that the proposal would have any significant impact on the listed buildings or their setting.

Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeological Service has not objected to the application and advises that no archaeological mitigation is required in this instance.

The proposal will have an adverse impact on the setting of the Caterthun Hillforts. Whilst Historic Scotland has indicated that such adverse impact is not to such an extent that issues of national significance are involved, development that adversely affects such assets is not supported by development plan policy. The Hillforts are of significant local interest and importance, and development that adversely impacts on their setting is not supported by development plan policy.

Impact on Natural Heritage

The Development Plan contains a number of policies that seek to protect important species and sites designated for their natural heritage interest and to ensure that proposals that may affect them are properly assessed. It also indicates that the Local Biodiversity Action Plans will constitute material considerations in determining development proposals. Policy ER35 specifically requires that proposals should demonstrate that there is no unacceptable interference to birds.

The 'Onshore Wind Turbines SAS' indicates wind turbine developments have the capacity to have both positive and negative effects on the wildlife, habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity of an area. There is also the potential for negative environmental effects, with possible loss of or damage to valuable habitat resulting from construction of turbine bases, access tracks or other works. Such impacts can be significant particularly if they relate to habitats that are difficult to replicate. There is also the potential of collision risk, displacement or disturbance by forcing birds or bats to alter flight paths. Wind farms should not adversely affect the integrity of designated sites protected under EU and UK legislation (Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest

(SSSIs)) or wider conservation interests. Planning guidance produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) indicates that experience suggests that many bird species and their habitats are unaffected by wind turbine developments and the impact of an appropriately designed and located wind farm on the local bird life should, in many cases, be minimal.

SNH and RSPB have both been consulted and neither has raised any concerns. Equally no other relevant consultees have raised any concern regarding the location of the turbines relative to any known populations of sensitive flora or fauna. Accordingly, on the basis of available environmental information, consultation responses and site visits I do not anticipate that the proposed development would give rise to unacceptable impacts on natural heritage interests.

Remaining Issues / Other Development Plan Considerations

The remaining policy tests cover the impact of transmission lines associated with energy generation developments; impacts on transmitting or receiving systems; impact of transporting equipment via road network and associated environmental impacts; impact on authorised aircraft activity; and arrangements for site restoration.

The supporting statement indicates that power will be transmitted along underground cabling connecting the turbine. I consider that a buried cable at this location would be unlikely to result in significant environmental impacts.

With regards to impacts on TV and other broadcast reception it is recognised that wind turbine development can give rise to interference. However it is generally accepted that digital signals are more robust to such disruption than the previous analogue system. In this case technical consultees have not raised any concern.

In terms of transport to the proposed site, the existing road networks will be used to deliver the sections of the turbine, with no improvements or upgrading of the road network required. The Roads Service has raised no objections to the proposals. In this regard, I am satisfied that road safety and the associated environmental implications of transporting the turbine to the site would not render the proposal unacceptable.

In relation to the impact of the development on aircraft activity the MOD, NATS, CAA and Dundee Airport have been consulted and have not raised any objection to the application and no significant impact on aircraft activity is anticipated. The MOD has requested that details of the construction be submitted to them in order that the turbine can be accurately mapped.

The supporting information indicates that the design lifetime proposed for the turbines would be 25 years. A planning condition could secure removal of the apparatus and restoration of the site after this period had the application been approved.

Scottish Government policy supports the provision of renewable energy development including wind farms. The SPP confirms that planning authorities should support the development of wind farms in locations where the technology can operate efficiently and environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. The SPP also indicates that planning authorities should respond to the diverse needs and locational requirements of different sectors and sizes of businesses and take a flexible approach to ensure that changing circumstances can be accommodated and new economic opportunities realised.

In this case I accept that the wind turbine would contribute to meeting government targets and in this regard attracts some support from national policy and from the development plan. However, as discussed above I consider that this proposal would result in significant adverse landscape and visual impacts and would have adverse impacts on the setting of the Caterthun Hillforts. Whilst wind turbines are necessary to meet government energy targets and I accept that this is a location where the technology could operate, I do not consider that the landscape and visual impacts can be satisfactorily addressed in respect of turbines of this scale at this location. Accordingly I do not consider that the proposal receives

unqualified support from the SPP.

I recognise the benefit of producing electricity by renewable means, but I do not consider that there is anything in government policy that suggests this should be at the expense of landscape and visual impact considerations. In the particular circumstances of this case, I do not consider that the environmental or economic benefit of the production of renewable energy outweighs the very direct harm that this proposal would cause to the landscape and visual amenity of the area as well as to the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Regard has been given to the environmental information provided in relation to the application and comments received from consultees. Account has also been taken of all relevant representations made. As discussed above, it is concluded that although the proposed wind turbines would comply with some relevant policies and criteria in the development plan, this must be balanced against the significant and adverse impacts identified in respect of the landscape and visual amenity of the area and to the setting of the Caterthun Hillforts. These impacts are considered to be unacceptable, and in this respect the proposal is considered to be contrary to the objectives of development plan policy. It is accepted that the development would contribute towards the meeting Government energy targets, however, Government guidance confirms that schemes should only be supported where technology can operate efficiently and where environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. In this case it is accepted that whilst the technology would operate efficiently the environmental impacts identified herein would not be satisfactorily addressed. Accordingly the proposed development is contrary to development plan policy. There are no material considerations that justify approval of the application contrary to the provisions of the development plan.

Human Rights Implications

The decision to refuse this application has potential implications for the applicant in terms of his entitlement to peaceful enjoyment of his possessions (First Protocol, Article 1). For the reasons referred to elsewhere in this report justifying the decision in planning terms, it is considered that any actual or apprehended infringement of such Convention Rights, is justified. Any interference with the applicant's right to peaceful enjoyment of his possessions by refusal of the present application is in compliance with the Council's legal duties to determine this planning application under the Planning Acts and such refusal constitutes a justified and proportionate control of the use of property in accordance with the general interest and is necessary in the public interest with reference to the Development Plan and other material planning considerations as referred to in the report.

Equalities Implications

The issues contained in this report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

Decision

The application is Refused

Reason(s) for Decision:

1. That the proposed turbines by virtue of their height and location would result in unacceptable landscape and visual impacts and accordingly the siting and appearance of the turbine has not been chosen to minimise impact on amenity. As such the proposal is contrary to Policy 3 of TAYplan and policies ER5, ER34 and S6 of the Angus Local Plan Review 2009.
2. That the proposed turbines by virtue of their height and proximity to the Caterthun Hillforts would have an adverse and unacceptable impact on the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. As such, the proposal is contrary to Policy 3 of TAYplan and Policies ER18 and ER34 of the Angus Local Plan Review 2009.

Notes:

Case Officer: Damian Brennan
Date: 27 January 2015

Development Plan Policies

Angus Local Plan Review 2009

Policy S1 : Development Boundaries

(a) Within development boundaries proposals for new development on sites not allocated on Proposals Maps will generally be supported where they are in accordance with the relevant policies of the Local Plan.

(b) Development proposals on sites outwith development boundaries (i.e. in the countryside) will generally be supported where they are of a scale and nature appropriate to the location and where they are in accordance with the relevant policies of the Local Plan.

(c) Development proposals on sites contiguous with a development boundary will only be acceptable where there is a proven public interest and social, economic or environmental considerations confirm there is an overriding need for the development which cannot be met within the development boundary.

Policy S3 : Design Quality

A high quality of design is encouraged in all development proposals. In considering proposals the following factors will be taken into account:-

- * site location and how the development fits with the local landscape character and pattern of development;
- * proposed site layout and the scale, massing, height, proportions and density of the development including consideration of the relationship with the existing character of the surrounding area and neighbouring buildings;
- * use of materials, textures and colours that are sensitive to the surrounding area; and
- * the incorporation of key views into and out of the development.

Innovative and experimental designs will be encouraged in appropriate locations.

Policy S6 : Development Principles (Schedule 1)

Proposals for development should where appropriate have regard to the relevant principles set out in Schedule 1 which includes reference to amenity considerations; roads and parking; landscaping, open space and biodiversity; drainage and flood risk, and supporting information.

Schedule 1 : Development Principles

Amenity

(a) The amenity of proposed and existing properties should not be affected by unreasonable restriction of sunlight, daylight or privacy; by smells or fumes; noise levels and vibration; emissions including smoke, soot, ash, dust, grit, or any other environmental pollution; or disturbance by vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

(b) Proposals should not result in unacceptable visual impact.

(c) Proposals close to working farms should not interfere with farming operations, and will be expected to accept the nature of the existing local environment. New houses should not be sited within 400m of an existing or proposed intensive livestock building. (Policy ER31).

Roads/Parking/Access

- (d) Access arrangements, road layouts and parking should be in accordance with Angus Council's Roads Standards, and use innovative solutions where possible, including 'Home Zones'. Provision for cycle parking/storage for flatted development will also be required.
- (e) Access to housing in rural areas should not go through a farm court.
- (f) Where access is proposed by unmade/private track it will be required to be made-up to standards set out in Angus Council Advice Note 17 : Miscellaneous Planning Policies. If the track exceeds 200m in length, conditions may be imposed regarding widening or the provision of passing places where necessary.
- (g) Development should not result in the loss of public access rights. (Policy SC36)

Landscaping / Open Space / Biodiversity

- (h) Development proposals should have regard to the Landscape Character of the local area as set out in the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (SNH 1998). (Policy ER5)
- (i) Appropriate landscaping and boundary treatment should be an integral element in the design and layout of proposals and should include the retention and enhancement of existing physical features (e.g. hedgerows, walls, trees etc) and link to the existing green space network of the local area.
- (j) Development should maintain or enhance habitats of importance set out in the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and should not involve loss of trees or other important landscape features or valuable habitats and species.
- (k) The planting of native hedgerows and tree species is encouraged.
- (l) Open space provision in developments and the maintenance of it should be in accordance with Policy SC33.

Drainage and Flood Risk

- (m) Development sites located within areas served by public sewerage systems should be connected to that system. (Policy ER22)
- (n) Surface water will not be permitted to drain to the public sewer. An appropriate system of disposal will be necessary which meets the requirements of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Angus Council and should have regard to good practice advice set out in the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Design Manual for Scotland and Northern Ireland 2000.
- (o) Proposals will be required to consider the potential flood risk at the location. (Policy ER28)
- (p) Outwith areas served by public sewerage systems, where a septic tank, bio-disc or similar system is proposed to treat foul effluent and /or drainage is to a controlled water or soakaway, the consent of SEPA and Angus Council will be required. (Policy ER23).
- (q) Proposals should incorporate appropriate waste recycling, segregation and collection facilities (Policy ER38)
- (r) Development should minimise waste by design and during construction.

Supporting Information

- (s) Where appropriate, planning applications should be accompanied by the necessary supporting information. Early discussion with Planning and Transport is advised to determine the level of supporting information which will be required and depending on the proposal this might include any of the following: Air Quality Assessment; Archaeological Assessment; Contaminated Land Assessment; Design Statement; Drainage Impact Assessment; Environmental Statement; Flood Risk Assessment; Landscape Assessment and/or Landscaping Scheme; Noise Impact Assessment; Retail Impact Assessment; Transport Assessment.

Policy ER4 : Wider Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

The Council will not normally grant planning permission for development that would have a significant adverse impact on species or habitats protected under British or European Law, identified as a priority in UK or Local Biodiversity Action Plans or on other valuable habitats or species.

Development proposals that affect such species or habitats will be required to include evidence that an assessment of nature conservation interest has been taken into account. Where development is

permitted, the retention and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity will be secured through appropriate planning conditions or the use of Section 75 Agreements as necessary.

Policy ER5 : Conservation of Landscape Character

Development proposals should take account of the guidance provided by the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment and where appropriate will be considered against the following criteria:

- (a) sites selected should be capable of absorbing the proposed development to ensure that it fits into the landscape;
- (b) where required, landscape mitigation measures should be in character with, or enhance, the existing landscape setting;
- (c) new buildings/structures should respect the pattern, scale, siting, form, design, colour and density of existing development;
- (d) priority should be given to locating new development in towns, villages or building groups in preference to isolated development.

Policy ER11 : Noise Pollution

Development which adversely affects health, the natural or built environment or general amenity as a result of an unacceptable increase in noise levels will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need which cannot be accommodated elsewhere.

Proposals for development generating unacceptable noise levels will not generally be permitted adjacent to existing or proposed noise-sensitive land uses. Proposals for new noise-sensitive development which would be subject to unacceptable levels of noise from an existing noise source or from a proposed use will not be permitted.

Policy ER16 : Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building

Development proposals will only be permitted where they do not adversely affect the setting of a listed building. New development should avoid building in front of important elevations, felling mature trees and breaching boundary walls.

Policy ER18 : Archaeological Sites of National Importance

Priority will be given to preserving Scheduled Ancient Monuments in situ. Developments affecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally significant archaeological sites and historic landscapes and their settings will only be permitted where it can be adequately demonstrated that either:

- (a) the proposed development will not result in damage to the scheduled monument or site of national archaeological interest or the integrity of its setting; or
- (b) there is overriding and proven public interest to be gained from the proposed development that outweighs the national significance attached to the preservation of the monument or archaeological importance of the site. In the case of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the development must be in the national interest in order to outweigh the national importance attached to their preservation; and
- (c) the need for the development cannot reasonably be met in other less archaeologically damaging locations or by reasonable alternative means; and
- (d) the proposal has been sited and designed to minimise damage to the archaeological remains.

Where development is considered acceptable and preservation of the site in its original location is not possible, the excavation and recording of the site will be required in advance of development, at the developer's expense

Policy ER19 : Archaeological Sites of Local Importance

Where development proposals affect unscheduled sites of known or suspected archaeological interest, Angus Council will require the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological evaluation to determine the importance of the site, its sensitivity to development and the most appropriate means for preserving or recording any archaeological information. The evaluation will be taken into account when determining whether planning permission should be granted with or without conditions or refused.

Where development is generally acceptable and preservation of archaeological features in situ is not feasible Angus Council will require through appropriate conditions attached to planning consents or through a Section 75 Agreement, that provision is made at the developer's expense for the excavation and recording of threatened features prior to development commencing.

Policy ER30 : Agricultural Land

Proposals for development that would result in the permanent loss of prime quality agricultural land and/or have a detrimental effect on the viability of farming units will only normally be permitted where the land is allocated by this Local Plan or considered essential for implementation of the Local Plan strategy.

Policy ER34 : Renewable Energy Developments

Proposals for all forms of renewable energy developments will be supported in principle and will be assessed against the following criteria:

- (a) the siting and appearance of apparatus have been chosen to minimise the impact on amenity, while respecting operational efficiency;
- (b) there will be no unacceptable adverse landscape and visual impacts having regard to landscape character, setting within the immediate and wider landscape, and sensitive viewpoints;
- (c) the development will have no unacceptable detrimental effect on any sites designated for natural heritage, scientific, historic or archaeological reasons;
- (d) no unacceptable environmental effects of transmission lines, within and beyond the site; and
- (e) access for construction and maintenance traffic can be achieved without compromising road safety or causing unacceptable permanent change to the environment and landscape, and
- (f) that there will be no unacceptable impacts on the quantity or quality of groundwater or surface water resources during construction, operation and decommissioning of the energy plant.

Policy ER35 : Wind Energy Developments

Wind energy developments must meet the requirements of Policy ER34 and also demonstrate:

- (a) the reasons for site selection;
- (b) that no wind turbines will cause unacceptable interference to birds, especially those that have statutory protection and are susceptible to disturbance, displacement or collision;
- (c) there is no unacceptable detrimental effect on residential amenity, existing land uses or road safety by reason of shadow flicker, noise or reflected light;
- (d) that no wind turbines will interfere with authorised aircraft activity;
- (e) that no electromagnetic disturbance is likely to be caused by the proposal to any existing transmitting or receiving system, or (where such disturbances may be caused) that measures will be taken to minimise or remedy any such interference;
- (f) that the proposal must be capable of co-existing with other existing or permitted wind energy developments in terms of cumulative impact particularly on visual amenity and landscape, including impacts from development in neighbouring local authority areas;
- (g) a realistic means of achieving the removal of any apparatus when redundant and the restoration of the site are proposed.

TAYplan Strategic Development plan

Policy 3D : Natural and Historic Assets

Understanding and respecting the regional distinctiveness and scenic value of the TAYplan area through:-

- ensuring development likely to have a significant effect on a designated or proposed Natura 2000 sites (either alone or in combination with other sites or projects), will be subject to an appropriate assessment. Appropriate mitigation requires to be identified where necessary to ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy;

- safeguarding habitats, sensitive green spaces, forestry, watercourses, wetlands, floodplains (in-line with the water framework directive), carbon sinks, species and wildlife corridors, geo-diversity, landscapes, parks, townscapes, archaeology, historic buildings and monuments and allow development where it does not adversely impact upon or preferably enhances these assets; and,
- identifying and safeguarding parts of the undeveloped coastline along the River Tay Estuary and in Angus and North Fife, that are unsuitable for development and set out policies for their management; identifying areas at risk from flooding and sea level rise and develop policies to manage retreat and realignment, as appropriate.

Policy 6C : Consider Criteria as Minimum

Local Development Plans and development proposals should ensure that all areas of search, allocated sites, routes and decisions on development proposals for energy and waste/resource management infrastructure have been justified, at a minimum, on the basis of these considerations:-

- The specific land take requirements associated with the infrastructure technology and associated statutory safety exclusion zones where appropriate;
- Waste/resource management proposals are justified against the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan and support the delivery of the waste/resource management hierarchy;
- Proximity of resources (e.g. woodland, wind or waste material); and to users/customers, grid connections and distribution networks for the heat, power or physical materials and waste products, where appropriate;
- Anticipated effects of construction and operation on air quality, emissions, noise, odour, surface and ground water pollution, drainage, waste disposal, radar installations and flight paths, and, of nuisance impacts on of-site properties;
- Sensitivity of landscapes (informed by landscape character assessments and other work), the water environment, biodiversity, geo-diversity, habitats, tourism, recreational access and listed/scheduled buildings and structures;
- Impacts of associated new grid connections and distribution or access infrastructure;
- Cumulative impacts of the scale and massing of multiple developments, including existing infrastructure;
- Impacts upon neighbouring planning authorities (both within and outwith TAYplan); and,
- Consistency with the National Planning Framework and its Action Programme.

DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARIES

1.29 Angus Council has defined development boundaries around settlements to protect the landscape setting of towns and villages and to prevent uncontrolled growth. The presence of a boundary does not indicate that all areas of ground within that boundary have development potential.

Development boundaries:

Generally provide a definition between built-up areas and the countryside, but may include peripheral areas of open space that are important to the setting of settlements.

Policy S1 : Development Boundaries

(a) Within development boundaries proposals for new development on sites not allocated on Proposals Maps will generally be supported where they are in accordance with the relevant policies of the Local Plan.

(b) Development proposals on sites outwith development boundaries (i.e. in the countryside) will generally be supported where they are of a scale and nature appropriate to the location and where they are in accordance with the relevant policies of the Local Plan.

(c) Development proposals on sites contiguous with a development boundary will only be acceptable where there is a proven public interest and social, economic or environmental considerations confirm there is an overriding need for the development which cannot be met within the development boundary.

Public interest: Development would have benefits for the wider community, or is justifiable in the national interest.

Proposals that are solely of

commercial benefit to the proposer would not comply with this policy.

DESIGN QUALITY

1.37 High quality, people-friendly surroundings are important to a successful development. New development should add to or improve the local environment and should consider the potential to use innovative, sustainable and energy efficient solutions. A well-designed development is of benefit to the wider community and also provides opportunities to:

- create a sense of place which recognises local distinctiveness and fits in to the local area;
- create high quality development which adds to or improves the local environment and is flexible and adaptable to changing lifestyles;
- create developments which benefit local biodiversity;
- create energy efficient developments that make good use of land
- and finite resources.

1.38 Design is a material consideration in determining planning applications. In all development proposals consideration should be given to the distinctive features and character of the local area. This includes taking account of existing patterns of development, building forms and materials, existing features such as hedgerows, trees, treelines and walls and distinctive landscapes and skylines.

1.39 The preparation of a design statement to be submitted alongside a planning application is encouraged, particularly for major developments or those affecting listed buildings or conservation areas. Early contact with Planning and Transport is recommended so that the requirement for a design statement can be determined.

Designing Places - A policy statement for Scotland – Scottish Executive 2001 This is the first policy statement on designing places in Scotland and marks the Scottish Executive's determination to raise standards of urban and rural development. Good design is an integral part of a confident, competitive and compassionate Scotland.

Good design is a practical means of achieving a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals, making places that will be successful and sustainable.

PAN 68 Design Statements

Design Statements should explain the design principles on which the development is based and illustrate the design solution.

The PAN explains what a design statement is, why it is a useful tool, when it is required and how it should be prepared and presented.

The aim is to see design statements used more effectively in the planning process and to

Policy S3 : Design Quality

A high quality of design is encouraged in all development proposals. In considering proposals the following factors will be taken into account:

- **site location and how the development fits with the local landscape character and pattern of development;**
- **proposed site layout and the scale, massing, height, proportions and density of the development including consideration of the relationship with the existing character of the surrounding area and neighbouring buildings;**
- **use of materials, textures and colours that are sensitive to**
- **the surrounding area; and**
- **the incorporation of key views into and out of the development.**

Innovative and experimental designs will be encouraged in appropriate locations.

DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

1.44 The principles in Schedule 1 provide a 'checklist' of factors which should be considered where relevant to development proposals. They include amenity considerations; roads and parking; landscaping, open space and biodiversity; drainage and flood risk, and supporting information. The Local Plan includes more detailed policies relating to some principles set out. Not all development proposals will require to comply with all of the principles.

Policy S6 : Development Principles

Proposals for development should where appropriate have regard to the relevant principles set out in Schedule 1 which includes reference to amenity considerations; roads and parking; landscaping, open space and biodiversity; drainage and flood risk, and supporting information.

Schedule 1 : Development Principles**Amenity**

- a) The amenity of proposed and existing properties should not be affected by unreasonable restriction of sunlight, daylight or privacy; by smells or fumes; noise levels and vibration; emissions including smoke, soot, ash, dust, grit, or any other environmental pollution; or disturbance by vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- b) Proposals should not result in unacceptable visual impact.
- c) Proposals close to working farms should not interfere with farming operations, and will be expected to accept the nature of the existing local environment. New houses should not be sited within 400m of an existing or proposed intensive livestock building. (Policy ER31).

Roads/Parking/Access

- d) Access arrangements, road layouts and parking should be in accordance with Angus Council's Roads Standards, and use innovative solutions where possible, including 'Home Zones'. Provision for cycle parking/storage for flatted development will also be required.
- e) Access to housing in rural areas should not go through a farm court.
- f) Where access is proposed by unmade/private track it will be required to be made-up to standards set out in Angus Council Advice Note 17: Miscellaneous Planning Policies. If the track exceeds 200m in length, conditions may be imposed regarding widening or the provision of passing places where necessary
- g) Development should not result in the loss of public access rights. (Policy SC36)

Landscaping / Open Space / Biodiversity

- h) Development proposals should have regard to the Landscape Character of the local area as set out in the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (SNH 1998). (Policy ER5)
- i) Appropriate landscaping and boundary treatment should be an integral element in the design and layout of proposals and should include the retention and enhancement of existing physical features (e.g. hedgerows, walls, trees etc) and link to the existing green space network of the local area.
- j) Development should maintain or enhance habitats of importance set out in the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and should not involve loss of trees or other important landscape features or valuable habitats and species.
- k) The planting of native hedgerows and tree species is encouraged.
- l) Open space provision in developments and the maintenance of it should be in accordance with Policy SC33.

Drainage and Flood Risk

- m) Development sites located within areas served by public sewerage systems should be connected to that system. (Policy ER22)
- n) Surface water will not be permitted to drain to the public sewer. An appropriate system of disposal will be necessary which meets the requirements of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Angus Council and should have regard to good practice advice set out in the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Design Manual for Scotland and Northern Ireland 2000.
- o) Proposals will be required to consider the potential flood risk at the location. (Policy ER28)
- p) Outwith areas served by public sewerage systems, where a septic tank, bio-disc or similar system is proposed to treat foul effluent and /or drainage is to a controlled water or soakaway, the consent of SEPA and Angus Council will be required. (Policy ER23).

Waste Management

- q) Proposals should incorporate appropriate waste recycling, segregation and collection facilities (Policy ER38).
- r) Development should minimise waste by design and during construction.

Supporting Information

- s) (s) Where appropriate, planning applications should be accompanied by the necessary supporting information. Early discussion with Planning and Transport is advised to determine the level of supporting information which will be required and depending on the proposal this might include any of the following: Air Quality Assessment; Archaeological Assessment; Contaminated Land Assessment; Design Statement; Drainage Impact Assessment; Environmental Statement; Flood Risk Assessment; Landscape Assessment and/or Landscaping Scheme; Noise Impact Assessment; Retail Impact Assessment; Transport Assessment.

Wider Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

3.9 The protection and enhancement of the natural heritage value of the wider environment beyond the confines of designated areas is necessary to promote biodiversity. Species or habitats protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, EC Birds or Habitat Directives or identified as priorities in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan may be found outwith designated sites. Local Biodiversity Action Plans have been prepared for both Tayside and the Cairngorms with the aim of safeguarding the future of the area's habitats and species. Implementation of these LBAPs is progressing through the preparation and implementation of a series of habitat and species action plans. The Local Biodiversity Action Plans for Tayside and the Cairngorms will be material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

Policy ER4 : Wider Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

The Council will not normally grant planning permission for development that would have a significant adverse impact on species or habitats protected under British or European Law, identified as a priority in UK or Local Biodiversity Action Plans or on other valuable habitats or species.

Development proposals that affect such species or habitats will be required to include evidence that an assessment of nature conservation interest has been taken into account. Where development is permitted, the retention and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity will be secured through appropriate planning conditions or the use of Section 75 Agreements as necessary.

Landscape Character

3.10 The landscape of Angus is one of its most important assets. It ranges in character from the rugged mountain scenery of the Angus Glens, through the soft rolling cultivated lowland landscape of Strathmore to the sandy bays and cliffs of the coast.

3.11 A small part of north-west Angus is statutorily designated as part of a larger National Scenic Area (NSA). The character and quality of this landscape is of national significance and special care should be taken to conserve and enhance it. Part of the upland area of Angus, including the NSA, is contained within the Cairngorms National Park which is excluded from the Angus Local Plan Review. The guidance provided by the adopted Angus Local Plan will remain in force until it is replaced by a Cairngorms National Park Local Plan prepared by the National Park Authority. The Cairngorms was made a National Park in September 2003 because it is a unique and special place that needs to be cared for – both for the wildlife and countryside it contains and for the people that live in it, manage it and visit it. It is Britain's largest national park.

3.12 In seeking to conserve the landscape character of the area it is important to assess the impact of development proposals on all parts of the landscape. To assist in this the "Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (1999)" commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage establishes landscape character zones and key character features within the local plan area to provide a better understanding of them and thus to enable better conservation, restoration, management and enhancement. Landscape Character Zones for the Local Plan Area are shown in Figure 3.2.

National Scenic Area:

Nationally important area of outstanding natural beauty, representing some of the best examples of Scotland's grandest landscapes particularly lochs and mountains.

National Park (Scotland) Act 2000 sets out four key aims for the park:

- *To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;*
- *To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;*
- *To promote understanding and enjoyment (including recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public;*
- *To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.*

Tayside Landscape Character Assessment 1999:

A detailed hierarchical assessment based on variations in the Tayside landscape, with a series of management and planning guidelines designed to conserve and enhance its distinctive character.

Figure 3.2 : Landscape Character Zones



- 1a** Upper Highland Glens
- 1b** Mid Highland Glens
- 3** Highland Summits & Plateaux
- 5** Highland Foothills
- 8** Igneous Hills
- 10** Broad Valley Lowland

- 12** Low Moorland Hills
- 13** Dipslope Farmland
- 14a** Coast with sand
- 14b** Coast with cliffs
- 15** Lowland Basin

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3.13 Where appropriate, development proposals will be considered in the context of the guidance provided by the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment. The assessment identifies different landscape character zones, considers their capacity to absorb change, and indicates how various types of development might best be accommodated to conserve characteristic landscape features and to strengthen and enhance landscape quality. Particular attention is focussed on the location, siting and design of development and the identification of proposals which would be detrimental to the landscape character of Angus.

Policy ER5 : Conservation of Landscape Character

Development proposals should take account of the guidance provided by the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment and where appropriate will be considered against the following criteria:

- (a) sites selected should be capable of absorbing the proposed development to ensure that it fits into the landscape;**
- (b) where required, landscape mitigation measures should be in character with, or enhance, the existing landscape setting;**
- (c) new buildings/structures should respect the pattern, scale, siting, form, design, colour and density of existing development;**
- (d) priority should be given to locating new development in towns, villages or building groups in preference to isolated development.**

Noise Pollution

3.20 Noise can have a significant impact on our health, quality of life and the general quality of the environment. The planning system has an important role in preventing and limiting noise pollution and the noise implications of development can be a material consideration in determining applications for planning permission adjacent to existing noise sensitive development or where new noise sensitive development is proposed.

Policy ER11 : Noise Pollution

Development which adversely affects health, the natural or built environment or general amenity as a result of an unacceptable increase in noise levels will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need which cannot be accommodated elsewhere. Proposals for development generating unacceptable noise levels will not generally be permitted adjacent to existing or proposed noise sensitive land uses.

Proposals for new noise-sensitive development which would be subject to unacceptable levels of noise from an existing noise source or from a proposed use will not be permitted.

*Planning Advice Note 56 -
Planning and Noise (1999)
Noise sensitive land uses should
be generally regarded as including
housing, hospitals, educational
establishments, offices and some
livestock farms.*

LISTED BUILDINGS

3.34 The relationship of a listed building with the buildings, landscape and spaces around it is an essential part of its character. The setting of a listed building is, therefore, worth preserving and may extend to encompass land or buildings some distance away. Insensitive development can erode or destroy the character and/or setting of a listed building. Consequently planning permission will not be granted for development which adversely affects the setting of a Listed Building. Trees and landscaping, boundary walls and important elevations may be particularly sensitive to the effects of development.

Policy ER16 : Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building

Development proposals will only be permitted where they do not adversely affect the setting of a listed building. New development should avoid building in front of important elevations, felling mature trees and breaching boundary walls.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites

3.36 Angus has a rich heritage of archaeological remains ranging from crop marks and field systems through to structures such as standing stones, hill forts, castles and churches. They are evidence of the past development of society and help us to understand and interpret the landscape of today. They are a finite and non-renewable resource to be protected and managed.

3.37 Sites considered to be of national importance are scheduled by Scottish Ministers as Ancient Monuments. There are over 200 such sites in Angus with additional sites regularly being incorporated into the List. In addition, there are other monuments of regional or local significance. All of these sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, are fragile and irreplaceable.

3.38 The owner or occupier of a scheduled ancient monument is required to obtain consent from Historic Scotland for repairs, alterations, demolition, or any work affecting the monument. In order therefore to protect the scheduled monument any planning application that may affect it will be notified to Historic Scotland and their comments taken into account in determining development proposals.

Policy ER18 : Archaeological Sites of National Importance

Priority will be given to preserving Scheduled Ancient Monuments in situ. Developments affecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally significant archaeological sites and historic landscapes and their settings will only be permitted where it can be adequately demonstrated that either:

- a) the proposed development will not result in damage to the scheduled monument or site of national archaeological interest or the integrity of its setting; or
- b) there is overriding and proven public interest to be gained from the proposed development that outweighs the national significance attached to the preservation of the monument or archaeological importance of the site. In the case of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the development must be in the national interest in order to outweigh the national importance attached to their preservation; and
- c) the need for the development cannot reasonably be met in other less archaeologically damaging locations or by reasonable alternative means; and
- d) the proposal has been sited and designed to minimise damage to the archaeological remains.

Where development is considered acceptable and preservation of the site in its original location is not possible, the excavation and recording of the site will be required in advance of development, at the developer's expense.

NPPG 5: Planning and Archaeology (1994)

Sets out the role of the planning system in protecting ancient monuments and archaeological sites and landscapes. The Government seeks to encourage the preservation of our heritage of sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic interest. The development plan system provides the policy framework for meeting the need for development along with the need for preserving archaeological resources.

PAN 42 : Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Monument Procedure (1994)

Archaeological remains offer a tangible, physical link with the past. They are a finite and non-renewable resource containing unique information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. Such remains are part of Scotland's identity and are valuable both for their own sake and for education, leisure and tourism. The remains are often fragile and vulnerable to damage or destruction; care must therefore be taken to ensure that they are not needlessly destroyed.

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM):

The site of a scheduled monument and any other monument which in the opinion of the Scottish Ministers is of public interest by reason of its historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest.

3.39 While the best examples of valuable archaeological sites are designated of national importance there are numerous examples of historic sites in both urban and rural areas that are of local significance. There are also other sites where finds may have been made in the past but no remains are known to date.

3.40 Within the mediaeval burghs of Arbroath, Brechin, Forfar and Montrose areas of primary and secondary archaeological significance were identified through the Scottish Burgh Surveys undertaken in the late 1970s. This provides an indicator for prospective developers that where redevelopment is being proposed an archaeological assessment may be required prior to commencement of works or at least a watching brief during excavations.

Policy ER19 : Archaeological Sites of Local Importance

Where development proposals affect unscheduled sites of known or suspected archaeological interest, Angus Council will require the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological evaluation to determine the importance of the site, its sensitivity to development and the most appropriate means for preserving or recording any archaeological information. The evaluation will be taken into account when determining whether planning permission should be granted with or without conditions or refused.

Where development is generally acceptable and preservation of archaeological features in situ is not feasible Angus Council will require through appropriate conditions attached to planning consents or through a Section 75 Agreement, that provision is made at the developer's expense for the excavation and recording of threatened features prior to development commencing.

Agriculture

Agricultural Land

3.64 Current national policy protects prime quality agricultural land from inappropriate and irreversible development. It is estimated that Angus has around 9.6% of this scarce and non-renewable national resource, predominantly located in the lowland area along Strathmore and the coastal strip between Carnoustie and Arbroath. As the Local Plan strategy seeks to accommodate development in and around the main towns, it is inevitable that some prime quality land will be required for development.

Prime Quality Agricultural Land – Grade 1, 2 and 3.1 as defined and identified on the Macauley Land Use Research Institutes Land Capability for Agriculture maps.

Policy ER30 : Agricultural Land

Proposals for development that would result in the permanent loss of prime quality agricultural land and/or have a detrimental effect on the viability of farming units will only normally be permitted where the land is allocated by this Local Plan or considered essential for implementation of the Local Plan strategy.

Renewable Energy

3.72 The Scottish Executive is strongly supportive of renewable energies and has set a target of 17-18% of Scotland's electricity supply to come from renewable sources by 2010. NPPG6: Renewable Energy Developments (Revised 2000) considers a range of renewable energy technologies and encourages the provision of a positive policy framework to guide such developments. The Scottish Executive's aspiration is for renewable sources to contribute 40% of electricity production by 2020, an estimated total installed capacity of 6GW (Minister for Enterprise, July 2005). This will require major investment in commercial renewable energy production and distribution capacity throughout Scotland.

3.73 The Dundee and Angus Structure Plan acknowledges the advantages of renewable energy in principle but also recognises the potential concerns associated with development proposals in specific locations. Angus Council supports the principle of developing sources of renewable energy in appropriate locations. Large-scale developments will only be encouraged to locate in areas where both technical (e.g. distribution capacity and access roads) and environmental capacity can be demonstrated.

3.74 Developments which impinge on the Cairngorms National Park will be considered within the context of the National Park Authority's Planning Policy No1: Renewable Energy.

Renewable Energy Sources

3.75 Offshore energy production, including wind and tidal methods, has the potential to make a significant contribution to the production of renewable energy in Scotland. Other than small-scale onshore support buildings, such developments currently fall outwith the remit of the planning system.

3.76 All renewable energy production, including from wind, water, biomass, waste incineration and sources using emissions from wastewater treatment works and landfill sites will require some processing, generating or transmission plant. Such developments, that can all contribute to reducing emissions will have an impact on the local environment and will be assessed in accordance with Policy ER34.

Policy ER34 : Renewable Energy Developments

Proposals for all forms of renewable energy development will be supported in principle and will be assessed against the following criteria:

NPPG6: Renewable Energy Developments (Revised 2000)

The Scottish Ministers wish to see the planning system make positive provision for renewable energy whilst at the same time:

- *meeting the international and national statutory obligations to protect designated areas, species, and habitats of natural heritage interest and the historic environment from inappropriate forms of development; and*
- *minimising the effects on local communities.*

Large-scale projects which may or will require an Environmental Assessment. These are defined as hydroelectric schemes designed to produce more than 0.5MW and wind farms of more than 2 turbines or where the hub height of any turbine or any other structure exceeds 15m.

SNH's EIA Handbook identifies 6 types of impact which may require an assessment:

- *Landscape and visual;*
- *Ecological;*
- *Earth heritage;*
- *Soil;*
- *Countryside access; and*
- *Marine environment.*

- (a) the siting and appearance of apparatus have been chosen to minimise the impact on amenity, while respecting operational efficiency;
- (b) there will be no unacceptable adverse landscape and visual impacts having regard to landscape character, setting within the immediate and wider landscape, and sensitive viewpoints;
- (c) the development will have no unacceptable detrimental effect on any sites designated for natural heritage, scientific, historic or archaeological reasons;
- (d) no unacceptable environmental effects of transmission lines, within and beyond the site; and
- (e) access for construction and maintenance traffic can be achieved without compromising road safety or causing unacceptable permanent and significant change to the environment and landscape.

Wind Energy

3.77 Onshore wind power is likely to provide the greatest opportunity and challenge for developing renewable energy production in Angus. Wind energy developments vary in scale but, by their very nature and locational requirements, they have the potential to cause visual impact over long distances. Wind energy developments also raise a number of environmental issues and NPPG 6 advises that planning policies should guide developers to broad areas of search and to establish criteria against which to consider development proposals. In this respect, Scottish Natural Heritage Policy Statement 02/02, Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Wind Farms in Respect of the Natural Heritage, designates land throughout Scotland as being of high, medium or low sensitivity zones in terms of natural heritage. Locational guidance is provided to supplement the broad-brush zones.

3.78 A range of technical factors influence the potential for wind farm development in terms of location and viability. These include wind speed, access to the distribution network, consultation zones, communication masts, and proximity to radio and radar installations. Viability is essentially a matter for developers to determine although annual average wind speeds suitable for commercially viable generation have been recorded over most of Angus, other than for sheltered valley bottoms. Environmental implications will require to be assessed in conjunction with the Council, SNH and other parties as appropriate.

Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Windfarms in Respect of the Natural Heritage - Scottish Natural Heritage Policy Statement No 02/02

Zone 3 – high natural heritage sensitivity. Developers should be encouraged to look outwith Zone 3 for development opportunities

Zone 2 – medium natural heritage sensitivity. ...while there is often scope for wind farm development within Zone 2 it may be restricted in scale and energy output and will require both careful choice of location and care in design to avoid natural heritage impacts.

Zone 1 - ...inclusion of an area in Zone 1 does not imply absence of natural heritage interest. Good siting and design should however enable such localised interests to be respected, so that overall within Zone 1, natural heritage interests do not present a significant constraint on wind farm development

Figure 3.4 : Geographic Areas



1 Highland

2 Lowland and Hills

3 Coast

- TLCA Designation
- 1a Upper Highland Glens
 - 1b Mid Highland Glens
 - 3 Highland Summits & Plateaux
 - 5 Highland Foothills

- TLCA Designation
- 8 Igneous Hills
 - 10 Broad Valley Lowland
 - 12 Low Moorland Hills
 - 13 Dipslope Farmland

- TLCA Designation
- 14a Coast with sand
 - 14b Coast with cliffs
 - 15 Lowland Basin

3.79 Scottish Natural Heritage published a survey of Landscape Character, the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (TLCA), which indicates Angus divides naturally into three broad geographic areas – the Highland, Lowland and hills and the Coast. The Tayside Landscape Character Assessment provides a classification to map these areas based on their own particular landscape characteristics (Fig 3.4).

Area	TLCA Classification	Landscape Character
1 Highland	1a, 1b, 3, 5	Plateaux summits, glens and complex fault line topography
2 Lowland and hills	8, 10, 12,13	Fertile strath, low hills and dipslope farmland.
3 Coast	14a, 14b, 15	Sand and cliff coast and tidal basin

The impact of wind farm proposals will, in terms of landscape character, be assessed against the TLCA classifications within the wider context of the zones identified in SNH Policy Statement 02/02.

3.80 The open exposed character of the Highland summits and the Coast (Areas 1 and 3) is sensitive to the potential landscape and visual impact of large turbines. The possibility of satisfactorily accommodating turbines in parts of these areas should not be discounted although locations associated with highland summits and plateaux, the fault line topography and coast are likely to be less suitable. The capacity of the landscape to absorb wind energy development varies. In all cases, the scale layout and quality of design of turbines will be an important factor in assessing the impact on the landscape.

3.81 The Highland and Coast also have significant natural heritage value, and are classified in SNH Policy Statement 02/02 as mainly Zone 2 or 3 - medium to high sensitivity. The development of large scale wind farms in these zones is likely to be limited due to potential adverse impact on their visual character, landscape and other natural heritage interests.

3.82 The Lowland and Hills (Area 2) comprises a broad swathe extending from the Highland boundary fault to the coastal plain. Much of this area is classified in Policy Statement 02/02 as Zone 1- lowest sensitivity. Nevertheless, within this wider area there are locally important examples of higher natural heritage sensitivity such as small- scale landscapes, skylines and habitats which will influence the location of wind turbines. In all cases, as advocated by SNH, good siting and design should show respect for localised interests.

3.83 Wind farm proposals can affect residential amenity, historic and archaeological sites and settings, and other economic and social activities including tourism. The impact of wind farm developments on these interests requires careful assessment in terms of sensitivity and scale so that the significance can be determined and taken into account.

3.84 Cumulative impact occurs where wind farms/turbines are

visually interrelated e.g. more than one wind farm is visible from a single point or sequentially in views from a road or a footpath. Landscape and visual impact can be exacerbated if wind turbines come to dominate an area or feature. Such features may extend across local authority, geographic or landscape boundaries and impact assessments should take this into account. Environmental impacts can also be subject to cumulative effect – for example where a number of turbine developments adversely affect landscape character, single species or habitat type.

3.85 SNH advise that an assessment of cumulative effects associated with a specific wind farm proposal should be limited to all existing and approved developments or undetermined Section 36 or planning applications in the public domain. The Council may consider that a pre-application proposal in the public domain is a material consideration and, as such, may decide it is appropriate to include it in a cumulative assessment. Similarly, projects outwith the 30km radius may exceptionally be regarded as material in a cumulative context.

Policy ER35 : Wind Energy Development

Wind energy developments must meet the requirements of Policy ER34 and also demonstrate:

- (a) the reasons for site selection;**
- (b) that no wind turbines will cause unacceptable interference to birds, especially those that have statutory protection and are susceptible to disturbance, displacement or collision;**
- (c) there is no unacceptable detrimental effect on residential amenity, existing land uses or road safety by reason of shadow flicker, noise or reflected light;**
- (d) that no wind turbines will interfere with authorised aircraft activity;**
- (e) that no electromagnetic disturbance is likely to be caused by the proposal to any existing transmitting or receiving system, or (where such disturbances may be caused) that measures will be taken to minimise or remedy any such interference;**
- (f) that the proposal must be capable of co-existing with other existing or permitted wind energy developments in terms of cumulative impact particularly on visual amenity and landscape, including impacts from development in neighbouring local authority areas;**
- (g) a realistic means of achieving the removal of any apparatus when redundant and the restoration of the site are proposed.**

NPPG6 : Renewable Energy Developments (Revised 2000)

Large-scale projects which may or will require an Environmental Assessment. These are defined as hydroelectric schemes designed to produce more than 0.5MW and wind farms of more than 2 turbines or where the hub height of any turbine or any other structure exceeds 15m.

Local Community Benefit

3.86 Where renewable energy schemes accord with policies in this local plan there may be opportunities to secure contributions from developers for community initiatives. Such contributions are not part of the planning process and as such will require to be managed through other means than obligations pursuant to Section 75 Planning Agreement. Community contributions are separate from planning gain and will not be considered as part of any planning application.

Managing TAYplan's Assets: Safeguarding resources and land with potential to support the sustainable economic growth.

Delivering the vision and objectives of this Plan requires management of land and conservation of resources. This recognises that good quality development and the right type of development in the right places can lead to a series of social, economic and environmental benefits for those areas and the TAYplan region as a whole. This Plan balances these factors with the sometimes competing nature of different land uses.

This Plan safeguards for present and future generations important resources and land with potential to support the economy. It also requires us to ensure that development and growth in the economy occur in a way that does not place unacceptable burdens on environmental capacity and increase the exposure of users or inhabitants to risks. This can be achieved by directing development to specific locations (Policies 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7); ensuring that development is fit for place (Policies 2 and 8); and, that some areas or assets are safeguarded for a specific range of land uses (Policy 3).

This is important to support the growth of emerging sectors of the economy, such as the off-shore renewable energy sector through the protection of the region's ports for port-related uses, particularly Dundee and Montrose Ports. Similarly employment land, particularly in rural areas, can be affected through redevelopment for alternative uses or by alternative uses nearby. This could hinder or even prevent the start up of businesses in the future and/or limit business operations.

The economic recovery of the region and new development will need to be supported by appropriate infrastructure, particularly transport infrastructure. This will also contribute to behavioural change and reducing reliance on the car and on road-based freight. Ensuring that this can be delivered will require land and routes to be protected from prejudicial development. It also requires the public and private sectors to work jointly to deliver infrastructure.

Supporting future food and resource security will require the protection of finite resources like minerals, forestry and prime agricultural land* by management as one consideration in the prioritisation of land release under Policy 1.

Limiting the types of land uses that can occur within green belts at Perth and St. Andrews will contribute to protecting the settings and historic cores of those settlements from inappropriate development and prevent coalescence with neighbouring areas.

It is essential to grow the economy within environmental limits and build-in resilience to climate change, natural processes and increased risk from sea level rise. Identifying environmentally sensitive areas and important natural and historic assets where no or very limited development would be permitted, such as some coastal areas, Natura 2000** sites and other locations, will contribute to this. It will also be important to ensure that plans for managed realignment of coast and other coastal management are devised in liaison with Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland.



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*Prime agricultural land: Land classes 1, 2 and 3.1 – these are the most suited to arable agriculture.

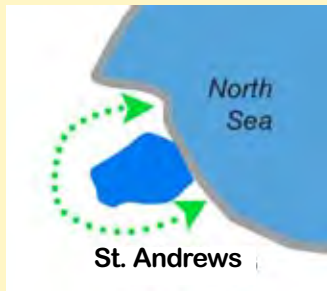
**Natura 2000: European-wide designations to protect habitats and species – special protection areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites and special areas of conservation (SACs)

Policy 3: Managing TAYplan's Assets

- identifying and safeguarding at least 5 years supply of employment land within principal settlements to support the growth of the economy and a diverse range of industrial requirements;
- safeguarding areas identified for class 4 office type uses in principal settlements; and,
- further assisting in growing the year-round role of the tourism sector.

- continuing to designate green belt boundaries at both St. Andrews and Perth to preserve their settings, views and special character including their historic cores; assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; to manage long term planned growth including infrastructure in this Plan's Proposals Map and Strategic Development Areas in Policy 4; and define appropriate forms of development within the green belt based on Scottish Planning Policy;

Perth Core Area



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- using Perth green belt to sustain the identity of Scone, and provide sufficient land for planned development around key villages and settlements.

using the location priorities set out in Policy 1 of this Plan to:

- safeguard minerals deposits of economic importance and land for a minimum of 10 years supply of construction aggregates at all times in all market areas; and,
- protect prime agricultural land, new and existing forestry areas, and carbon rich soils (where identified) where the advantages of development do not outweigh the loss of productive land.

Employment Land

Greenbelts

Natural and Historic Assets*

Land should be identified through Local Development Plans to ensure responsible management of TAYplan's assets by:

Transport

Finite Resources

Understanding and respecting the regional distinctiveness and scenic value of the TAYplan area through:

- ensuring development likely to have a significant effect on a designated or proposed Natura 2000 sites (either alone or in combination with other sites or projects), will be subject to an appropriate assessment. Appropriate mitigation requires to be identified where necessary to ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy;
- safeguarding habitats, sensitive green spaces, forestry, watercourses, wetlands, floodplains (in-line with the water framework directive), carbon sinks, species and wildlife corridors, geodiversity, landscapes, parks, townscapes, archaeology, historic buildings and monuments and allow development where it does not adversely impact upon or preferably enhances these assets; and,
- identifying and safeguarding parts of the undeveloped coastline along the River Tay Estuary and in Angus and North Fife, that are unsuitable for development and set out policies for their management; identifying areas at risk from flooding and sea level rise and develop policies to manage retreat and realignment, as appropriate.

- safeguarding land at Dundee and Montrose Ports, and other harbours, as appropriate, for port related uses to support freight, economic growth and tourism; and,
- safeguarding land for future infrastructure provision (including routes), identified in the Proposal Map of this Plan or other locations or routes, as appropriate, or which is integral to a Strategic Development Area in Policy 4 of this Plan, or which is essential to support a shift from reliance on the car and road-based freight and support resource management objectives.

*Natural and historic assets: Landscapes, habitats, wildlife sites and corridors, vegetation, biodiversity, green spaces, geological features, water courses and ancient monuments, archaeological sites and landscape, historic buildings, townscapes, parks, gardens and other designed landscapes, and other features (this includes but is not restricted to designated buildings or areas).

Energy and Waste/Resource Management Infrastructure: Ensures that energy and waste/resource management infrastructure are in the most appropriate locations.

This Plan seeks to reduce resource consumption through provision of energy and waste/resource management infrastructure* in order to contribute to Scottish Government ambitions for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and to achieve zero waste. It also aims to contribute towards greater regional energy self-sufficiency.

This requires us to use less energy and to generate more power and heat from renewable sources and resource recovery; and, to consider waste from start to finish; becoming better at resource management. This is strongly tied into resource security and living within environmental limits. It also presents opportunities to grow the renewable energy and waste/resource management sector as a whole within the TAYplan region. The issue is no longer about whether such facilities are needed but instead about helping to ensure they are delivered in the most appropriate locations.

Land use planning is only one of the regulatory requirements that energy and waste/resource management operators must consider. This Plan does not provide the locations for energy infrastructure; this role is for Local Development Plans. It sets out a series of locational considerations for all energy and waste/resource management infrastructure as the impacts and operations of these share similar characteristics.

This Plan ensures consistency between Local Development Plans in fulfilling Scottish Planning Policy requirements to define areas of search for renewable energy infrastructure and it applies this to a wide range of energy and waste/resource management infrastructure.

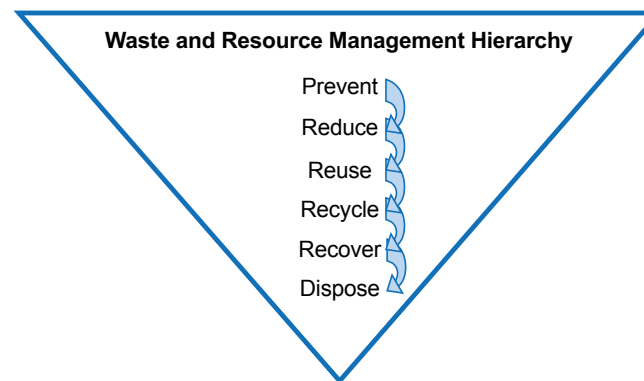
It recognises the different scales – property (eg micro-renewables or individual waste facilities), community (eg district heating and power or local waste facilities) and regional/national (eg national level schemes and waste facilities for wide areas) at which this infrastructure can be provided and both the individual and cumulative contribution that can be made, particularly by community and property scale infrastructure, to Scottish Government objectives for greater decentralisation of heat and energy.

Changes in the law allowing surplus power to be sold back to the national grid and other incentives could stimulate interest from local authorities, businesses, householders, community land trusts and other groups to obtain loans for energy infrastructure to enable development to meet local or individual needs in future. Similarly the price of materials in the global market place may continue to stimulate business interests in resource recovery.

Many of the region’s existing waste management facilities have additional capacity or could be expanded in situ, including the strategic scale facilities at Binn Farm near Glenfarg and DERL at Baldovie in Dundee. No requirement for new landfill sites has been identified before 2024 and successful implementation of the Scottish Government’s Zero Waste Plan and expansion of other treatment facilities could extend this to and beyond 2032.

This Plan encourages new strategic scale waste/resource management infrastructure to be within or close to the Dundee and Perth Core Areas reflecting the proximity of materials and customers for heat and other products.

Modern waste/resource management infrastructure is designed and regulated to high standards and is similar to other industrial processes. Subject to detailed site specific considerations, waste management facilities can be considered appropriate land uses within industrial and employment sites.



*Energy and waste management infrastructure: Infrastructure for heat and power generation and transmission; and, collection, separation, handling, transfer, processing, resource recovery and disposal of waste. This includes recycling plants, anaerobic waste digesters, energy from waste plants, wind turbines, biomass plants, combined heat and power plants, solar power, hydro electric power plants and similar facilities.

Policy 6: Energy and Waste/Resource Management Infrastructure

To deliver a low/zero carbon future and contribute to meeting Scottish Government energy and waste targets:

A. Local Development Plans should identify areas that are suitable for different forms of renewable heat and electricity infrastructure and for waste/resource management infrastructure or criteria to support this; including, where appropriate, land for process industries (e.g. the co-location/proximity of surplus heat producers with heat users).

B. Beyond community or small scale facilities waste/resource management infrastructure is most likely to be focussed within or close to the Dundee and/or Perth Core Areas (identified in Policy 1).

C. Local Development Plans and development proposals should ensure that all areas of search, allocated sites, routes and decisions on development proposals for energy and waste/resource management infrastructure have been justified, at a minimum, on the basis of these considerations:

- The specific land take requirements associated with the infrastructure technology and associated statutory safety exclusion zones where appropriate;
- Waste/resource management proposals are justified against the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan and support the delivery of the waste/resource management hierarchy;
- Proximity of resources (e.g. woodland, wind or waste material); and to users/customers, grid connections and distribution networks for the heat, power or physical materials and waste products, where appropriate;
- Anticipated effects of construction and operation on air quality, emissions, noise, odour, surface and ground water pollution, drainage, waste disposal, radar installations and flight paths, and, of nuisance impacts on off-site properties;
- Sensitivity of landscapes (informed by landscape character assessments and other work), the water environment, biodiversity, geo-diversity, habitats, tourism, recreational access and listed/scheduled buildings and structures;
- Impacts of associated new grid connections and distribution or access infrastructure;
- Cumulative impacts of the scale and massing of multiple developments, including existing infrastructure;
- Impacts upon neighbouring planning authorities (both within and outwith TAYplan); and,
- Consistency with the National Planning Framework and its Action Programme.

LeslielA

From: ALLEN, Sarah J [Sarah.ALLEN@nats.co.uk] on behalf of NATS Safeguarding [NATSSafeguarding@nats.co.uk]
Sent: 21 August 2014 13:35
To: PLNProcessing
Subject: Your Ref: 14/00669/FULL (Our Ref: SG19727)

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application. This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.

If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Allen
Technical Administrator
On behalf of NERL Safeguarding Office

If you are not the intended recipient, please notify our Help Desk at Email Information.Solutions@nats.co.uk immediately. You should not copy or use this email or attachment (s) for any purpose nor disclose their contents to any other person.

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NATS means NATS (En Route) plc (company number: 4129273), NATS (Services) Ltd (company number 4129270), NATSNAV Ltd (company number: 4164590) or NATS Ltd (company number 3155567) or NATS Holdings Ltd (company number 4138218). All companies are registered in England and their registered office is at 4000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 7FL.

LeslieIA

From: Windfarms [windfarms@atkinsglobal.com]
Sent: 22 August 2014 12:11
To: PLNProcessing
Cc: windfarms-radiotelemetry@scottishwater.co.uk
Subject: WF 28540 - 14/00669/FULL - 600M West Of Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell T1- T2 - NO 55479 69958

Dear Sirs,

I am responding to an email of 21-Aug-2014, regarding the above named proposed development.

The above application has now been examined in relation to UHF Radio Scanning Telemetry communications used by our Client in that region and we are happy to inform you that we have **NO OBJECTION** to your proposal.

Please note that this is not in relation to any Microwave Links operated by Scottish Water

Atkins Limited is responsible for providing Wind Farm/Turbine support services to TAUWI.

Atkins Limited is responsible for providing Wind Farm/Turbine support services to the Telecommunications Association of the UK Water Industry. Web: www.tauwi.co.uk

Windfarm Support

ATKINS

The official engineering design services provider
for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Web: www.atkinsglobal.com/communications

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LeslielA

From: Windfarms Team [windfarms@jrc.co.uk]
Sent: 22 August 2014 10:27
To: PLNProcessing
Subject: Planning Ref: 14/00669/FULL - Witton Farm, Lethnot, Edzell, Brechin, Angus - Proposed Wind Development

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Ref: 14/00669/FULL

Name/Location: Witton Farm

Total 2 turbines at NGR:

T1 355356 769976

T2 355594 770017

Hub Height: 50m Rotor Radius: 24m

(defaults used if not specified on application)

Cleared with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by:-

Local Electricity Utility and Scotia Gas Networks

JRC analyses proposals for wind farms etc. on behalf of the UK Fuel & Power Industry and the Water Industry in north-west England. This is to assess their potential to interfere with radio systems operated by utility companies in support of their regulatory operational requirements.

In the case of this proposed wind energy development, JRC does not foresee any potential problems based on known interference scenarios and the data you have provided. However, if any details of the wind farm change, particularly the disposition or scale of any turbine(s), it will be necessary to re-evaluate the proposal.

In making this judgement, JRC has used its best endeavours with the available data, although we recognise that there may be effects which are as yet unknown or inadequately predicted. JRC cannot therefore be held liable if subsequently problems arise that we have not predicted.

It should be noted that this clearance pertains only to the date of its issue. As the use of the spectrum is dynamic, the use of the band is changing on an ongoing basis and consequently, developers are advised to seek re-coordination prior to considering any design changes.

Regards

Keith Brogden

Wind Farm Team

The Joint Radio Company Limited
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road,
LONDON SW1P 2AF
United Kingdom

DDI: +44 20 7706 5197

TEL: +44 20 7706 5199

Skype: keithb_jrc

<windfarms@jrc.co.uk>

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JRC Ltd. is a Joint Venture between the Energy Networks Association (on behalf of the UK Energy Industries) and National Grid.

Registered in England & Wales: 2990041

<<http://www.jrc.co.uk/about>>

From: [Linda Campbell](#)
To: [PLNProcessing](#)
Subject: Erection of two wind turbines, Witton Farm Lethnott - 14/00669/FULL - 21 August 2013 - No comments response
Date: 26 August 2014 11:03:06

Dear Sir/Madam

Erection of 2 wind trubines Witton Farm Lethnott – 14/00669/FULL - No comments email

We do not intend to offer formal comment on this proposal as it falls below our threshold for consultation as outlined in our Service Statement for Planning and Development -

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A498949.pdf>

Advice on small scale renewable energy proposals such as this can be at

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A669283.pdf>

Regards

Linda Campbell

Linda Campbell
Area Support
Tayside and Grampian
Scottish Natural Heritage
Inverdee House
Baxter Street
Aberdeen
AB11 9QA

Tel 01224 266500

Direct dial 01224 266506

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MooreDJ

From: Wind Farm Enquiries [Windfarms@arqiva.com]
Sent: 27 August 2014 12:12
To: MooreDJ; PLANNING
Subject: Proposed Windfarm - Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell - Ref 14/00669/FULL
Your Ref 14/00669/FULL

F.A.O David Moore

PROPOSED WINDFARM : Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell NGR (NO554699)

Thank you for your e-mail consulting us on the above windfarm proposal - Arqiva is responsible for providing the BBC and ITV's transmission network.
In responding, we should clarify first that we only address the integrity of our broadcast networks.

This generally involves checking our Re-Broadcast Links (RBL's), and point to point microwave links, essential for network operation.

This is distinct from the separate issue of problems with interference. In other words we only check whether a proposal might detrimentally affect our ability to continue broadcasting signals from the site. What we do not check is whether there might be interference with the reception of those signals once successfully transmitted from our site to individual properties.

Having regard to our network and the lines of sight used by our RBL's, we have no objection or issues to raise based upon the information that you provided.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Taylor
Senior Engineer
Terrestrial Broadcast
Product and Technology
Arqiva
Sutton Coldfield
Tel 01926 - 416567

From: MooreDJ [mailto:MooreDJ@angus.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 August 2014 12:01
To: NATSsafeguarding@nats.co.uk; Safeguarding@hial.co.uk; Tayside_Grampian@snh.gov.uk; windfarms@caa.co.uk; esro@rspb.org.uk; Spectrum.LicensingEnquiries@ofcom.org.uk; windfarms@atkinglobal.com; windfarms@jrc.co.uk; archaeology@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; hs.heritagemanagement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; nigel.baker@neosnetworks.co.uk; radionetworkprotection@bt.com; Callum.Scott@spsa.pnn.police.uk; windfarms@r4telecom.co.uk; Wind Farm Enquiries; Simon.bartrip@vodafone.com; windfarms.solihull@nsn.com
Subject: 14/00669/FULL E Consultation

Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip,
temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development
Land 600M West Of Witton Farm
Lethnot
Edzell

David Moore Clerical Officer Planning And Transport County Buildings Market Street Forfar DD8
3LG TEL 01307 473308 E Mail mooredj@angus.gov.uk

28/08/2014



21 August 2014
Your reference: 14/00669/FULL

Our ref.WID9389

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: PROPOSED

**Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height
and 74 metres to blade tip, temporary anemometer
mast and ancillary development**

Land 600M West Of Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your letter dated 19/08/2014.

We have studied this proposal with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links.

The conclusion is that, the Project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio networks.

Yours sincerely

Dale Aitkenhead
BT Network Radio Protection

MooreDJ

From: Spectrum Licensing [Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk]
Sent: 22 August 2014 17:25
To: MooreDJ
Cc: windfarms@atkinsglobal.com; windfarms@jrc.co.uk
Subject: RE: 14/00669/FULL E Consultation
Attachments: 1400669 CONSULTATIONS.rtf

FIXED LINK REPORT FOR WINDFARM CO-ORDINATION AREA:

Dear Sir/Madam

Search Radius 500m at Centre NGR NO5547969958. Search includes

<i>Links</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Contact</i>
--------------	----------------	----------------

NO LINKS FOUND

These details are provided to Ofcom by Fixed Link operators at the time of their licence application and cannot be verified by Ofcom for accuracy or currency and Ofcom makes no guarantees for the currency or accuracy of information or that they are error free. As such, Ofcom cannot accept liability for any inaccuracies or omissions in the data provided, or its currency however so arising. The information is provided without any representation or endorsement made and without warranty of any kind, whether express or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of satisfactory quality, fitness for a particular purpose, non-infringement, compatibility, security and accuracy.

Our response to your co-ordination request is only in respect of microwave fixed links managed and assigned by Ofcom within the bands and frequency ranges specified in the table below. The analysis identifies all fixed links with either one link leg in the coordination range or those which intercept with the coordination range. The coordination range is a circle centred on your provided national grid reference. We add an additional 500 metres to the coordination range that you request. Therefore if you have specified 500 metres the coordination range will be 1km.

If you should need further information regarding link deployments and their operation then you will need to contact the fixed link operator(s) identified in the table above directly.

Additional coordination is also necessary with the band managers for the water, electricity and utilities industries which operate in the frequency ranges 457-458 MHz paired with 463-464 MHz band. You should contact both the following:

- Atkins Ltd at windfarms@atkinsglobal.com.
- Joint Radio Company (JRC) at windfarms@jrc.co.uk. Additionally, you can call the JRC Wind Farm Team on 020 7706 5197.

For self coordinated links operating in the 64-66GHz, 71-76GHz and 81-86GHz bands a list of current links can be found at: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/classes/fixed/>

Please note other organisations may require coordination with regard to your request. More information regarding windfarm planning is available on the RenewableUK website <http://www.renewableuk.com>

Table of assessed fixed links bands and frequency ranges

Band (GHz)	Frequency Range (MHz)
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1.4/1.5	1350 -1375 1450 -1452 1492 -1530
1.6	1672 – 1690
1.7	1764 – 1900
2	1900 – 2690
4	3600 – 4200
6	5925 – 7110
7.5	7425 – 7900
11	10700 – 11700
13	12750 – 13250
14	14250 – 14620
15	14650 – 15350
18	17300 – 19700
22	22000 – 23600
25	24500 – 26500
28	27500 – 29500
38	37000 – 39500
50	49200 – 50200
55	55780 – 57000

Regards

From: MooreDJ [mailto:MooreDJ@angus.gov.uk]

Sent: 21 August 2014 12:01

To: NATSsafeguarding@nats.co.uk; Safeguarding@hial.co.uk; Tayside_Grampian@snh.gov.uk; windfarms@caa.co.uk; esro@rspb.org.uk; Spectrum Licensing; windfarms@atkinglobal.com; windfarms@jrc.co.uk; archaeology@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; hs.heritagemanagement@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; nigel.baker@neosnetworks.co.uk; radionetworkprotection@bt.com; Callum.Scott@spsa.pnn.police.uk; windfarms@r4telecom.co.uk; windfarm.enquiries@arqiva.com; Simon.bartrip@vodafone.com; windfarms.solihull@nsn.com;

Subject: 14/00669/FULL E Consultation

Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip,
temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development
Land 600M West Of Witton Farm
Lethnot
Edzell

David Moore Clerical Officer Planning And Transport County Buildings Market Street Forfar DD8 3LG
TEL 01307 473308 E Mail mooredj@angus.gov.uk

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LeslielA

From: Claire Herbert [Claire.Herbert@aberdeenshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 01 September 2014 14:39
To: PLNProcessing
Cc: Damian Brennan (BrennanD@angus.gov.uk)
Subject: Planning consultation 14/00669/FULL - archaeology response

Plan App No: 14/00669/FULL

Planning Officer: Damian Brennan

Proposal: Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip, temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development

Address: Land 600M West Of Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell

Postcode:

Grid Reference: NO 5547 6995

Thank you for consulting us on the above application. I can advise that in this particular instance, no archaeological mitigation is required.

Kind regards,
Claire

Claire Herbert MA(Hons) MA AIFA

Archaeologist
Archaeology Service
Infrastructure Services
Aberdeenshire Council
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB

01224 665185

07825356913

claire.herbert@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray & Angus Councils

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology>

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk>

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LeslielA

From: Safeguarding [Safeguarding@hial.co.uk]
Sent: 02 September 2014 11:12
To: PLNProcessing
Cc: Anne Phillips
Subject: 14/00669/FULL - 2 Wind Turbines 74m, Lethnot, Edzell

NO OBJECTION - HIAL

Your Ref: 14/00669/FULL

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSAL: Erection of 2 Wind Turbines of 50m to hub height and 74m to blade tip, temp anemometer mast and ancillary development
LOCATION: Land 600m West of Witton Farm, Lethnot, Edzell

With reference to the above proposed development, it is confirmed that our calculations show that, at the given position and height, this development would not infringe the safeguarding surfaces for **Dundee Airport**.

Therefore, Highlands and Islands Airports Limited would have no objections to the proposal.

Kind regards

Kirsteen

Safeguarding Team
on behalf of Dundee Airport Limited
c/o Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
Head Office, Inverness Airport, Inverness IV2 7JB
☎ 01667 464244 (DIRECT DIAL)
✉ safeguarding@hial.co.uk 🌐 www.hial.co.uk



Sent by e-mail: PLNProcessing@angus.gov.uk

Planning & Transport Division
Angus Council
County Buildings
Market Street
FORFAR
DD8 3LG

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Direct Line: 0131 668 8773
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
Rory.McDonald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: AMH/90069/10
Our Case ID: 201403204
Your ref: 14/00669/FULL

02 September 2014

Dear Sirs

Town And Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013
Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50m to hub height and 74m to blade tip, temporary anemometer and ancillary development, Land 600m west of Witton Farm, Lethnot, Edzell
The Caterthuns, hillforts

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 21 August.

Historic Scotland does not object to this proposed development.

Notwithstanding our comments above and in the annex below, we confirm that your Council should proceed to determine the application without further reference to us.

If you require any further information, please contact me.

Yours faithfully

RORY MCDONALD
Senior Heritage Management Officer East



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Annex

The development proposal

The proposals are for the creation of a wind turbine development comprising two turbines, temporary anemometer mast and associated site infrastructure. The turbines will have a maximum height of 74m.

Historic Environment Assets affected

The Caterthuns hillforts are a complex pair of monuments located on adjacent hill summits rising to between 260m and 300m OD from where they command extensive views across the fertile farmland of Strathmore. The Brown Caterthun is a multi-period fort, remodelled throughout the 1st millennium BC, and defined by multiple lines of earth and stone ramparts and ditches. The White Caterthun is similar in form, but capped by a massive stone-walled fort, which encloses an area of the summit measuring some 140m by 60m. The forts are amongst the most impressive and best preserved in Scotland and represent an important archaeological resource.

Impact of the development on the setting of the scheduled monument

To understand and appreciate *The Caterthuns hillforts* as a monument it is necessary to understand its relation to topography and landscape. Historic Scotland has long recognised the desirability of preventing development close to such sites or which might adversely affect their wider setting since the purpose of these sites can only be properly understood by appreciating their location within their wider landscape setting. This wider landscape setting should contribute to the interpretation and appreciation of a field monument, and also to the understanding of the mindset which led the builders of such sites to decide on these particular locations. Development proposals should recognise the significance, character and value of these monuments; and should seek to conserve the archaeological interest of the site based on a thorough understanding of the historic environment and due consideration to the principles of national planning policy.

The setting of *The Caterthuns* is characterised by the paired dominant hilltop location of the forts, their close proximity and their liminal position between the bulk of the Grampians rising to the north and west and the low-lying fertile farmland of Strathmore reaching down towards the sea to the south and east. *The Caterthuns* occupy a specifically selected location within their landscape; not the highest and most dominant, but one which emphasises the change in terrain from hill land to lowland, allows extensive views both to and from the site and allows for the construction of a paired set of monuments. The characteristic double-summit form of *The Caterthuns* can be seen over a considerable distance and was clearly located and constructed to be a prominent and easily identifiable feature.

The current setting of the monument is one of managed moorland, within a wider landscape of mixed moorland, grazing land and conifer plantations to the north and west, and mixed grazing, arable and woodland to the south and east. The landscape is identifiably man-made but rural with a small and limited presence of larger structural elements in the form of electricity pylons, agricultural silos and small to medium height





wind turbines. There are currently no windfarms within approximately 20km, but one distant windfarm can be seen to the north west.

We have considered the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the scheduled monument and reached the following conclusions: –

- The turbines will appear in views when entering the summit fort of the Brown Caterthun. However, this effect is quickly dissipated by movement through the entrance; the turbines will be visible but identifiable as a wind farm behind neighbouring hill summits.
- The development is unlikely to be visible in views towards *The Caterthuns* from the surrounding area and will not appear directly behind the monument, disrupting the relationship between the forts or challenging them for dominance, in any obvious key viewpoints.
- The wind turbine development will not disrupt any perceived or possible relationships between *The Caterthuns* and other monuments.

Historic Scotland's comments

We do not object to this development proposal.

The wind farm will have an impact on the setting of the scheduled monument known as *The Caterthuns, hillforts*. However, due to their proposed location and design, the turbines will not challenge the monument for dominance within its setting, will not interrupt any obvious key views of the monument from the surrounding area, and will not disrupt any perceived relationships between *The Caterthuns* and other monuments or landscape features in the vicinity. The turbines will be visually obvious from *The Caterthuns* but will not fundamentally disrupt the relationship between the forts themselves, or the relationship between the forts on their hill summits and the low-lying fertile land which they dominate.

As a result, while we acknowledge an impact on the setting of the monument, we consider that impact to be limited and localised. Consequently, we do not consider the proposed development will adversely affect the way in which this monument is understood, appreciated and experienced to such an extent that issues of national significance are involved.





Memorandum

Communities, Roads, County Buildings, Forfar Telephone 01307 461460

TO: HEAD OF PLANNING & PLACE

FROM: HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES

YOUR REF:

OUR REF: GH/AG/FJ TD1.3

DATE: 4 September 2014

SUBJECT: **PLANNING APPLICATION REF. NO. 14/00669/FULL – PROPOSED
INSTALLATION OF TWO WIND TURBINE GENERATORS 600m WEST OF WITTON
FARM, EDZELL FOR MR YARR**

I refer to the above planning application which deals with a proposal for two wind turbines, 74 metres in height to blade tip and a temporary anemometer at a height of 50m.

Witton Farm is located 5km west of Edzell on the north side of the classified, Kirkton of Menmir to Edzell road. Access to the site is via the private farm track which leads north from the public road.

Amongst the application's supporting documents is an Environmental and Planning Report which considers amongst other matters, issues surrounding traffic and transport.

The transport assessment has considered routing for abnormal loads between the port of Dundee and the site via A90(T) Dundee – Aberdeen trunk road, B966 Brechin - Edzell and the above local road. An alternative route from the port of Montrose has also been considered.

A visual inspection of the routes and a swept path analysis has been carried out and route constraints have been identified which will require alterations to the public road network.

Further requirements for alterations are anticipated to be identified as part of an additional, detailed route inspection; prior to a test run for abnormal loads should the application be approved. Approximately 16 abnormal load trips will be generated over a 5 month period and it is anticipated that these movements will take place overnight at weekends, in order to minimise impacts on other road users.



An assessment of construction and use traffic generation has estimated that on average, 15 HGV movements per day will take place during the main construction phase of the development. It is recommended that a traffic route management plan is developed in order to minimise HGV movements during peak periods; prevent convoy movements and to remove the requirement for HGV's to pass each other on the Kirkton of Menmuir – Edzell road.

Assessment of existing traffic flows and development generated trips indicate that HGV movements will increase by 2% on the B966 and by 7% on the Kirkton of Menmuir – Edzell road. In accordance with national guidelines these increases are deemed to be negligible/not significant.

I have considered the application in terms of the traffic likely to be generated by it, and its impact on the public road network. I have no objections to the proposed development but would recommend that any consent granted shall be subject to the following conditions:

- 1 That, prior to the commencement of works on site, a route condition survey shall be submitted for approval by the planning authority. The survey shall cover the Kirkton of Menmuir to Edzell road between the site access and the B966 High Street, Edzell. The survey shall be approved, in writing, by the planning authority, prior to the commencement of development on site.
Reason: in order to record the baseline condition of the identified public road.
- 2 That, prior to the commencement of works on site, a Construction Traffic Management and Routing Plan shall be submitted for the advance approval of the planning authority. Thereafter, the Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details. As a minimum, the plan shall include those matters listed in paragraph 13.11 of the Environment and Planning Report submitted as part of the application.
Reason: in the interests of road safety, free traffic flow and the amenity of all road users.
- 3 That, the above Construction Traffic Management Plan shall include a method for the review and monitoring of the road condition referred to in Condition 1, above and allow for any deterioration identified during the construction phase of the development to be rectified by the applicant.
Reason: in order to protect the structural integrity of the public road.
- 4 That, any mitigation works identified as necessary within the boundaries of a public road shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the planning authority, in accordance with the standards of Angus Council.
Reason: in order to maintain the public road network in a satisfactory manner.
- 5 That, prior to the commencement of works on site, visibility splays shall be provided at the junction of the proposed access with the Kirkton of Menmuir to Edzell road, giving a minimum sight distance of 90 metres in each direction at a point 2.4 metres from the adjacent channel line of the Kirkton of Menmuir to Edzell road.
Reason: in the interests of road safety.



6 That, within the above visibility splays nothing shall be erected or planting permitted to grow to a height in excess of 1050mm above the adjacent road channel. Thereafter, the visibility sightlines shall be maintained as such until the turbines are decommissioned or the access to the public road is stopped-up, whichever is the latter.

Reason: in the interests of road safety.

7 That, prior to the commencement of use of the site access, the verge crossing at its junction with the public road shall be formed and constructed, in accordance with the standards of Angus Council (Type C).

Reason: to provide a safe and satisfactory access in a timely manner.

8 That, the above access shall be designed so as to prevent the discharge of surface water onto the public road.

Reason: in the interests of road safety.

I trust the above comments are of assistance but should you have any further queries, please contact Adrian Gwynne on extension 3393.

p.p.



Comments for Planning Application 14/00669/FULL

Application Summary

Application Number: 14/00669/FULL

Address: Land 600M West Of Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell

Proposal: Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip, temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development

Case Officer: Damian Brennan

Customer Details

Name: Mrs Judith Gallacher

Address: West Water Dunlappie Road Edzell

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Community Council

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: INVERESK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning Application 14/00669/FULL

Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip, temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development, 600M West Of Witton Farm, Lethnot, Edzell

Inveresk Community Council wishes to submit its objection to the above detailed application. We note that this is a repeat of the planning application 13/00257/FULL which we also objected to and which was withdrawn on 29 August, 2013. We consider that two turbines of 74m to blade tip sited in the proposed location would create a wholly unacceptable visual impact on the surrounding area.

Our starting point is that the ICC supports in principle the guidelines in the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus, Final Report (November 2013) (SLCA) as approved by Angus Council. This application manifestly breaches those guidelines: the site lies within landscape character type Tay 5: Highland Foothills, (iv) Edzell Foothills and close to Tay 1: Highland Glens, 1B Mid Highland Glens, in both of which the maximum height to blade tip recommended by SLCA is 50m. The turbines would also impact on areas within Tay 3: Highland Summits and Plateaux, a landscape character type described by SLCA as unsuitable for wind turbines of any height.

Turning to the local perspective of the ICC, we would point out that the site in question is in an area which has so far remained free of the blight of wind turbines on the landscape. The proposed

site is very close to the main route to Glen Lethnot, one of the few remaining truly wild areas in Angus, and turbines of this height are completely out of keeping with the surrounding habitat. The Design Statement goes into a lot of discussion with regards to the relationship of the turbine layout within the surrounding landscape but there is no escaping the fact that these two turbines would dominate and overwhelm the scale of the surrounding landforms and in no way create any form of connection within these surroundings as is stated by the applicant. The Design Statement mentions that consideration was given originally to siting turbines higher on the applicants property at Cairny Hill, but the fact that the visual impact of such a development would have been even worse does not mean that the present application is acceptable.

The Brown and White Caterthuns are of national importance as significant hill forts. The applicant states that the primary views from the Caterthuns are looking away from the proposed turbines, to the east and south, over the lowland agricultural landscape towards the coast and Montrose Basin, and the proposed turbines would not appear within these views. The Caterthuns are a favourite site for locals and tourists to visit time and again for the joy afforded by the magnificent 360° views and more especially the views north and west towards the Wirren and over Nathro Hill towards Glen Lethnot and the Cairngorms and the proposed turbines would be very apparent looking in these directions. The Scottish Government in their Scottish Planning Policy state that a development which will have an adverse effect on a scheduled monument or the integrity of its setting should not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances. There would appear to be no exceptional circumstances necessitating the development of these proposed turbines. Historic Scotland, whilst not objecting to the development, acknowledge in their comments that the development will have a visual impact on the Caterthuns, albeit limited and localised, and not such that it will adversely affect the way in which this monument is understood, appreciated and experienced to such an extent that issues of national significance are involved. We would point out that the threshold of national significance for Historic Scotlands involvement as an objector is extremely high, and should not be taken by Angus Council as a green light for a development which contravenes the Councils own guidelines. We reiterate that from ICCs own local perspective that these two turbines would create a significant visual impact when viewed from the Caterthuns and form an unwelcome intrusion against an otherwise perfect vista.

Edzell village comprises a majority of residents who have moved to the area because of the glorious surroundings and regularly walk in the surrounding countryside, including The Wirren, the Caterthuns and Glen Lethnot. All of these areas will have their views blighted by these proposed turbines. It is a village that depends on tourism for a living, including its well renowned Golf Club which will have full uninterrupted views of the two turbines from their nine-hole course.

We are aware, from previous visits to the area, that the area of land behind the now derelict Bogton Farmhouse is a popular nesting site for curlew, lapwing and grouse which is good to see at a time when there is concern over loss of habitat in farmland areas. It is well documented (Pearce-Higgins et al 2009 and 2012) that these species, especially curlew, are disturbed by construction noise and rotor movement noise. It has been noted that density of breeding curlew

can drop by 30% within a 1km buffer zone around wind turbines.

At the time of writing there was no response from the Ministry of Defence, however, from recent applications for turbines we are aware that the MOD is increasingly requesting, in the interests of air safety, that turbines are fitted with omni-directional aviation lighting with a flash pattern of 60 flashes per minute. Whilst this may not be the case for this particular application, if it were to be the case then it would create even more of a visual impact when viewed from further distances such as the A90.

We also have concerns about the transport of the turbines and associated infrastructure during the time of construction. According to the response from Angus Councils Roads Department there will be 16 abnormal load trips over 5 months and 15 HGV trips per day during the main construction period. Assuming the construction will take place outwith the nesting season this means that over a 5 month period it would be difficult to avoid periods of bad weather which would give more concern for the transport of abnormal loads and HGVs. The length of road from the High Street in Edzell along Lethnot Road, passing the old school and the new Castle Gardens estate and crossing the narrow bridge over the Wishop Burn, gives great cause for concern. This is due to the narrowness of the road and the amount of local traffic and residents associated with that particular area of the village which includes the primary school and local GP clinic.

The applicant wishes to develop the wind turbines as part of the farms range of diversification options though doesnt appear to be diversifying into anything other than wind farming. We are not against farms having a reasonably sized turbine solely for their own use if it enables them to expand their business within the farming enterprise. The proposed turbines will provide a contribution of 1,600kW generating capacity towards renewable energy which is a very modest contribution towards renewable energy targets and provides very little in the way of benefits to the local economy and in no way justifies the impact to the local landscape and the departure from planning policies.

We also have serious misgivings that if permission were granted the applicant would soon be applying for planning permission for erection of more turbines in the vicinity.

In conclusion we feel that this area of the Angus Glens has so far escaped the impact of wind turbines and should be allowed to remain unspoiled for the enjoyment of locals and tourists who frequent the area.

We trust that you will take our objection into consideration when making your decision on this proposal.

Judith Gallacher - Planning Officer, Inveresk Community Council

07 October 2014

14/00669/full Witton Farm, Lethnot, Edzell
Comments of Countryside Officer on landscape & visual impacts

Landscape Effects

The site of the proposed turbines is within the TAY5 Highland Foothills LCT. Within that, they would be within the Edzell Hill Landscape Unit (Sub-Area). However, as indicated in the LVIA submission, the site is close to both the Mid Highland Glens LCT and the Highland Summits and Plateaux LCT. In the vicinity of the site, the Highland Foothills LCT occupies a narrow strip between the other two LCTs around 500m wide. This part of the LCT has much of the same characteristics of the Mid Highland Glens LCT. It is the lower part of Glen Lethnot and is characterised as a glaciated valley enclosed by relatively low hills to both the north and south. Land-use tends to be pasture with rectilinear plantation woodland and more sinuous broadleaved woodland along the course of the West Water and its tributaries. Landscape scale is typically small close to the river becoming medium on the higher ground. Locally, views are corridor in character, being linear along the valley.

The modest scale, together with corridor views limits the scope for larger turbines. The size and position of the proposed turbines within the valley, would lead to them becoming a dominant landmark at the lower end of Glen Lethnot, becoming gateway features to the glen. This would be a major effect on the landscape character of Glen Lethnot and its setting.

As visualisations demonstrate, when viewed from the wider landscape, the turbines would typically be viewed against a backdrop of higher hills and indeed would often be partially masked or hidden by intervening topography. This significantly reduces the effects in relation to the wider landscape. From Strathmore, the turbines typically comply with the one third height rule.

The White and Brown Caterthuns are important landscape features, both from the east and from Glen Lethnot. The dominant position of the hillforts in the landscape is important to their setting. The position of the turbines at around 100m lower elevation than the hillforts can help reduce the competition for status in the landscape. However, the size of the turbines with moving parts substantially lessens this benefit. There will be localised areas (lower Glen Lethnot) where the turbines would replace the Caterthuns as the dominant landscape features.

Visual Effects

As is demonstrated by the ZTVs, the relatively low ground site within the lower part of a glen substantially reduces visibility of development from the wider landscape. The LVIA describes how this limits views of the proposed turbines (LVIA 45.32 – 45.41). From Strathmore and The Mearns the proposed development, where visible, would be viewed against a backdrop of hills. This would also be the case when viewed from higher ground. This helps lessen the visual effects of the development.

The LVIA assesses 13 viewpoints. However the weakness in the assessment is that there are no viewpoints from lower ground closer to the proposed development (within 3km). This would have enabled a fuller assessment of the impact of the proposed turbines on the lower part of Glen Lethnot. The proposed turbines would be likely to be prominent and in some cases, dominant feature in the lower part of Glen Lethnot. As indicated, the corridor nature of views contributes to this likelihood. Locally this would be likely to be significant.

The LVIA assesses the effect when viewed from the Caterthuns as being of moderate magnitude. In part, this is justified within the LVIA, by a belief that the key direction of views is towards Strathmore, rather than towards the development. I understand that there is a range of views on this matter. Accordingly, whilst I accept that there is merit in the relationship of the proposed turbines with landform and landscape pattern, the proposed turbines would nevertheless be highly prominent in views. I would therefore suggest that magnitude would be at least moderate.

Houses

There are no visualisations from the most affected houses.

The closest house is at Bogton to the north-west (190m - 240m, 2 -3 times turbine height). There are two buildings at Bogton. One is a cottage without a roof and the other has had window openings closed up and is used for animals. The proposed turbines would be very close and almost in front of the main direction of view towards lower ground and down the glen. If either of these is considered as houses, they would experience effects of major significance.

To the west is Oldtown Cottage (640m, 9 times turbine height). This house is located on higher ground than the proposed turbines; has panoramic views towards the Caterthuns and down the glen towards the coast. The convex landform between the house and the proposed turbines would provide a level of screening, but it is anticipated that a large part of the turbines would be prominent in views down the glen. Given the close proximity together with the relationship with views down the glen, it is considered likely that this house would also experience effects of major significance.

To the south-west the closest house is Larkhall (525m, 7 times turbine height). The main views are towards the south-east, but the proposed turbines would be visible on higher ground from garden areas above low hedges. The close proximity of the turbines would result in effects of at least moderate/ major significance.

To the south-east there are three houses at Tillydovie. It is unclear, but Tillydovie Farmhouse is likely to have views of the proposed turbines screened by farm buildings. Tillydovie Cottage (580m, 8 times turbine height) faces away from the direction of the turbines, but the turbines would be prominent in views from rear windows; garden and parking areas. Witton Mains (625m, 9 times turbine height) is designed to enjoy views in a number of directions including towards the turbines. The turbines would be on higher ground than both houses and when combined with their close proximity, would lead to effects of major significance.

To the west Witton Farmhouse is around 827m (11 times turbine height). It is likely that views of the proposed turbines would at least partially screened by a combination of trees and farm buildings, but some views above buildings may be possible. The effects likely to be experienced are unclear, but may be of moderate magnitude, moderate/ major significance.

Cumulative Landscape Effects

The most significant cumulative effects upon landscape character would result from the relationship with the proposed windfarm at Nathro. When viewed from the lower part of Glen Lethnot and the Caterthuns, they would together create a wind turbine typology which could be described as "landscape with wind turbines", which would be beyond landscape capacity.

From Strathmore and The Mearns, both developments would similarly be visible each with a differing relationship with landform. Together, they would erode the perceived underlying distinction between upland and lowland along the Highland Boundary Fault.

Cumulative Visual Effects

The proposed two 74m turbines would be around 2.9km from the northern edge of the Brown Caterthun. This would be slightly closer than the 3.05km distance of the two 45m turbines approved at Balrownie, to the south-east of the Brown Caterthun ramparts. Other approved turbines would be slightly further away. Collectively, they increase the occurrence of turbines within views from the ramparts of both Caterthuns. The most significant factor is the increase in the proportion of the ramparts which would have views of turbines.

The development would commonly be viewed either “in-combination” or “in-sequence” with the proposed development at Nathro from both Caterthuns and the lower part of Glen Lethnot. These effects would be significant.

Houses

A number of houses in the lower part of Glen Lethnot would experience significant cumulative visual effects with both the proposed development and the proposed wind farm at Nathro. These would vary between “in-sequence” views for Oldtown and possibly “in-combination” views from other houses on lower ground. In addition, Oldtown has distant views of wind farms in Aberdeenshire, which would be approximately behind the proposed development.

Conclusion

The low elevation of the site limits visibility of the proposed turbines.

The turbines would have a significant effect upon views from the Caterthuns. The turbines would be prominent in the lower part of Glen Lethnot and would be locally dominant.

Houses closest to the turbines would experience major visual effects and many would experience cumulative effects if both this application and Nathro were to be consented.

BrennanDG

From: AkroydL
Sent: 20 November 2014 15:43
To: BrennanDG
Cc: ThomsonSD
Subject: 14/00669/FULL - Erection of 2 Wind Turbines, Land 600m West of Witton Farm, Lethnot

Damian,

14/00669/FULL
Erection of 2 Wind Turbines
Land 600m West of Witton Farm, Lethnot

I refer to the above application and can advise that I have seen the submitted information and visited the site. This department previously raised concerns regarding this application, however, I have looked at the revised application and noise impact assessment and have the following comments to make:

- I understand that the property known as Bogton is considered to be abandoned and therefore would not form part of the noise assessment for residential amenity and as such will never be reoccupied as a residential property during the lifetime of the development
- The revised noise prediction calculations submitted show that Tillydovie Cottage will exceed the derived noise limits at 7m/s and a noise mitigation scheme is to be proposed to operate the nearest wind turbine to this property in a reduced mode setting during daytime hours. I can advise that I am satisfied that this could be adequately controlled by a planning condition being attached to the consent.

Based on the above I would advise that this department would not object to this development subject to the following conditions:

1. The rating level of noise immissions from the combined effects of the wind turbines (including the application of any tonal penalty) when determined in accordance with the attached Guidance Notes (to this condition), shall not exceed at any property lawfully existing at the date of this planning permission
 - (a) the L_{A90} dB (A) 10min levels, shown in tables A & B, during the respective periods described in these tables; where there is more than one property at a location the noise limits apply to all properties at that location or
 - (b) L_{A90} 35dB (A) 10min at wind speeds up to 10 m/s at 10m height at any other location.
2. Prior to the commencement of development the make and model of the turbine selected for use in the development shall be submitted for the written approval of the Planning Authority.
3. Prior to the commencement of development; where any turbine other than the candidate turbine is to be installed, a detailed noise assessment, including where necessary a cumulative assessment taking into account any existing wind turbine developments approved prior to the date of this permission, demonstrating that the noise limits specified by this permission shall not be exceeded shall be submitted for the written approval of the Planning Authority.
4. Prior to the commencement of development; where any wind turbine is required to operate in a reduced power mode in order to comply with the noise limits specified by this permission a

scheme for the mitigation of noise shall be submitted for the written approval of the Planning Authority.

5. The wind farm operator shall continuously log power production, wind speed and wind direction, all in accordance with Guidance Note 1(d). This data shall be retained for a period of not less than 24 months. The wind farm operator shall provide this information in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e) to the Local Planning Authority on its request, within 14 days of receipt in writing of such a request.
6. No electricity shall be exported until the wind farm operator has submitted to the Local Planning Authority for written approval a list of proposed independent consultants who may undertake noise compliance measurements in accordance with this permission. Amendments to the list of approved consultants shall be made only with the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.
7. Within 21 days from receipt of a written request from the Local Planning Authority following a complaint to it from an occupant of a dwelling alleging noise disturbance at that dwelling, the wind farm operator shall, at its expense, employ a consultant approved by the Local Planning Authority to assess the level of noise immissions from the wind farm at the complainant's property in accordance with the procedures described in the attached Guidance Notes. The written request from the Local Planning Authority shall set out at least the date, time and location that the complaint relates to and any identified atmospheric conditions, including wind direction, and include a statement as to whether, in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, the noise giving rise to the complaint contains or is likely to contain a tonal component.
8. The assessment of the rating level of noise immissions shall be undertaken in accordance with an assessment protocol that shall previously have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The protocol shall include the proposed measurement location identified in accordance with the Guidance Notes where measurements for compliance checking purposes shall be undertaken, whether noise giving rise to the complaint contains or is likely to contain a tonal component, and also the range of meteorological and operational conditions (which shall include the range of wind speeds, wind directions, power generation and times of day) to determine the assessment of rating level of noise immissions. The proposed range of conditions shall be those which prevailed during times when the complainant alleges there was disturbance due to noise, having regard to the written request by the Local Planning Authority to investigate a complaint, and such others as the independent consultant considers likely to result in a breach of the noise limits.
9. Where a dwelling to which a complaint is related is not listed in the tables attached to these conditions, the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval proposed noise limits to be adopted at the complainant's dwelling for compliance checking purposes. The proposed noise limits are to be those limits selected from the Tables specified for a listed location which the independent consultant considers as being likely to experience the most similar background noise environment to that experienced at the complainant's dwelling. The rating level of noise immissions resulting from the combined effects of the wind turbines when determined in accordance with the attached Guidance Notes shall not exceed the noise limits approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority for the complainant's dwelling.
10. The wind farm operator shall provide to the Local Planning Authority the independent consultant's assessment of the rating level of noise immissions undertaken in accordance with the Guidance Notes within 2 months of the date of the written request of the Local Planning Authority for compliance measurements to be undertaken, unless the time limit is extended in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The assessment shall include all data

collected for the purposes of undertaking the compliance measurements, such data to be provided in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e) of the Guidance Notes. The instrumentation used to undertake the measurements shall be calibrated in accordance with Guidance Note 1(a) and certificates of calibration shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority with the independent consultant's assessment of the rating level of noise immissions.

11. Where a further assessment of the rating level of noise immissions from the wind farm is required pursuant to Guidance Note 4(c), the wind farm operator shall submit a copy of the further assessment within 21 days of submission of the independent consultant's assessment pursuant to condition 8 above unless the time limit has been extended in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
12. In the event that noise emissions from the wind turbine exceed the levels set by this permission, operation of the turbine shall cease until measures to reduce noise levels to comply with this permission are implemented. Should such measures fail to achieve compliance with the noise levels set by this permission the operation of the turbine shall cease until otherwise approved in writing by the planning authority.
13. Prior to the commencement of development a shadow flicker assessment shall be submitted for the written approval of the Planning Authority. The aforementioned assessment shall consider any sensitive receptors a minimum of 1km from any proposed turbine. Where under worst case conditions any property is predicted to be affected by shadow flicker for more than 30 minutes per day or more than 30 days per year then a scheme of mitigation shall be submitted for the written approval of the Planning Authority. Once approved the operation of the wind farm shall take place in accordance with the said scheme unless the Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation. For the avoidance of doubt sensitive receptors includes all residential properties, hospitals, schools and office buildings.
14. That in the event of a pollution incident or interruption to supply, caused by the wind farm development, affecting or likely to affect any private water supply, the wind farm operator shall provide an immediate temporary supply to those affected until permanent mitigation can be effected to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority. Any replacement supply shall be of a quality to meet the private water supplies (Scotland) Regulations 1992 or any other appropriate Regulation in force at the time. In any case a permanent replacement supply or mitigation measures shall be provided no later than one month after the supply is first affected.
15. Noise associated with construction operations including the movement of materials, plant and equipment shall not exceed the noise limits shown in table C below for the times shown. At all other times noise associated with construction operations shall be inaudible at any sensitive receptor. For the avoidance of doubt sensitive receptors includes all residential properties, hospitals, schools and office buildings.

Table A: Operational wind turbine noise between 2300hrs – 0700hrs

Location	Standardised/measured 10m Height Wind Speed m/s								
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Tillydovie Cottage	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Tillydovie Farmhouse	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Tillydovie - new dwellinghouse (Planning Ref: 08/00757/FUL)	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Oldtown Cottage	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Larkhall House	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43

Larkhall – new dwellinghouse (Planning Ref: 04/00872/OUT)	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
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Table B: Operational wind turbine noise at all other times

Location	Standardised/measured 10m Height Wind Speed m/s									
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Tillydovie Cottage	35.0	35.0	35.3	37.2	39.3	41.6	44.1	46.8	46.8	
Tillydovie Farmhouse	35.0	35.0	35.3	37.2	39.3	41.6	44.1	46.8	46.8	
Tillydovie - new dwellinghouse (Planning Ref: 08/00757/FUL)	35.0	35.0	35.3	37.2	39.3	41.6	44.1	46.8	46.8	
Oldtown Cottage	35.0	35.0	35.0	36.4	38.7	41.2	44.0	47.1	47.1	
Larkhall House	35.0	35.0	35.0	36.4	38.7	41.2	44.0	47.1	47.1	
Larkhall – new dwellinghouse (Planning Ref: 04/00872/OUT)	35.0	35.0	35.0	36.4	38.7	41.2	44.0	47.1	47.1	

Table C: Construction Noise limits

Day	Time	Average Period (t)	Noise limit
Monday-Friday	0700-0800	1 hour	55 dBA Leq
Monday-Friday	0800-1800	10 hour	65 dBA Leq
Monday-Friday	1800-1900	1 hour	55 dBA Leq
Saturday	0700-0800	1 hour	55 dBA Leq
Saturday	0800-1800	10 hour	65 dBA Leq
Saturday	1800-1900	1 hour	55 dBA Leq
Sunday	0800-1800	10 hour	55 dBA Leq

Guidance Notes for Noise Conditions

These notes are to be read with and form part of the noise condition. They further explain the condition and specify the methods to be employed in the assessment of complaints about noise immissions from the wind farm. The rating level at each integer wind speed is the arithmetic sum of the wind farm noise level as determined from the best-fit curve described in Guidance Note 2 of these Guidance Notes and any tonal penalty applied in accordance with Guidance Note 3. Reference to ETSU-R-97 refers to the publication entitled “The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms” (1997) published by the Energy Technology Support Unit (ETSU) for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Guidance Note 1

(a) Values of the LA90,10 minute noise statistic should be measured at the complainant's property, using a sound level meter of EN 60651/BS EN 60804 Type 1, or BS EN 61672 Class 1 quality (or the equivalent UK adopted standard in force at the time of the measurements) set to measure using the fast time weighted response as specified in BS EN 60651/BS EN 60804 or BS EN 61672-1 (or the equivalent UK adopted standard in force at the time of the measurements). This should be calibrated in accordance with the procedure specified in BS 4142: 1997 (or the equivalent UK adopted standard in force at the time of the measurements). Measurements shall be undertaken in such a manner to enable a tonal penalty to be applied in accordance with Guidance Note 3.

(b) The microphone should be mounted at 1.2 – 1.5 metres above ground level, fitted with a two-layer windshield or suitable equivalent approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and placed outside the complainant's dwelling. Measurements should be made in "free field" conditions. To achieve this, the microphone should be placed at least 3.5 metres away from the building facade or any reflecting surface except the ground at the approved measurement location. In the event that the consent of the complainant for access to his or her property to undertake compliance measurements is withheld, the wind farm operator shall submit for the written approval of the Local Planning Authority details of the proposed alternative representative measurement location prior to the commencement of measurements and the measurements shall be undertaken at the approved alternative representative measurement location.

(c) The LA90,10 minute measurements should be synchronised with measurements of the 10-minute arithmetic mean wind and operational data logged in accordance with Guidance Note 1(d), including the power generation data from the turbine control systems of the wind farm.

(d) To enable compliance with the conditions to be evaluated, the wind farm operator shall continuously log arithmetic mean wind speed in metres per second and wind direction in degrees from north at hub height for each turbine and arithmetic mean power generated by each turbine, all in successive 10-minute periods. Unless an alternative procedure is previously agreed in writing with the Planning Authority, this hub height wind speed, averaged across all operating wind turbines, shall be used as the basis for the analysis. All 10 minute arithmetic average mean wind speed data measured at hub height shall be 'standardised' to a reference height of 10 metres as described in ETSU-R-97 at page 120 using a reference roughness length of 0.05 metres. It is this standardised 10 metre height wind speed data, which is correlated with the noise measurements determined as valid in accordance with Guidance Note 2, such correlation to be undertaken in the manner described in Guidance Note 2. All 10-minute periods shall commence on the hour and in 10- minute increments thereafter.

(e) Data provided to the Local Planning Authority in accordance with the noise condition shall be provided in comma separated values in electronic format.

(f) A data logging rain gauge shall be installed in the course of the assessment of the levels of noise immissions. The gauge shall record over successive 10-minute periods synchronised with the periods of data recorded in accordance with Note 1(d).

Guidance Note 2

(a) The noise measurements shall be made so as to provide not less than 20 valid data points as defined in Guidance Note 2 (b)

(b) Valid data points are those measured in the conditions specified in the agreed written assessment protocol, but excluding any periods of rainfall measured in the vicinity of the sound level meter. Rainfall shall be assessed by use of a rain gauge that shall log the occurrence of rainfall in each 10 minute period concurrent with the measurement periods set out in Guidance Note 1. In specifying such conditions the Local Planning Authority shall have regard to those conditions which prevailed during times when the complainant alleges there was disturbance due to noise or which are considered likely to result in a breach of the limits.

(c) For those data points considered valid in accordance with Guidance Note 2(b), values of the LA90,10 minute noise measurements and corresponding values of the 10- minute wind speed, as derived from the standardised ten metre height wind speed averaged across all operating wind turbines using the procedure specified in Guidance Note 1(d), shall be plotted on an XY chart with noise level on the Y-axis and the standardised mean wind speed on the X-axis. A least squares, "best fit" curve of an order deemed appropriate by the independent consultant (but which may not be higher than a fourth order) should be fitted to the data points and define the wind farm noise level at each integer speed.

Guidance Note 3

(a) Where, in accordance with the approved assessment protocol, noise immissions at the location or locations where compliance measurements are being undertaken contain or are likely to contain a tonal component, a tonal penalty is to be calculated and applied using the following rating procedure.

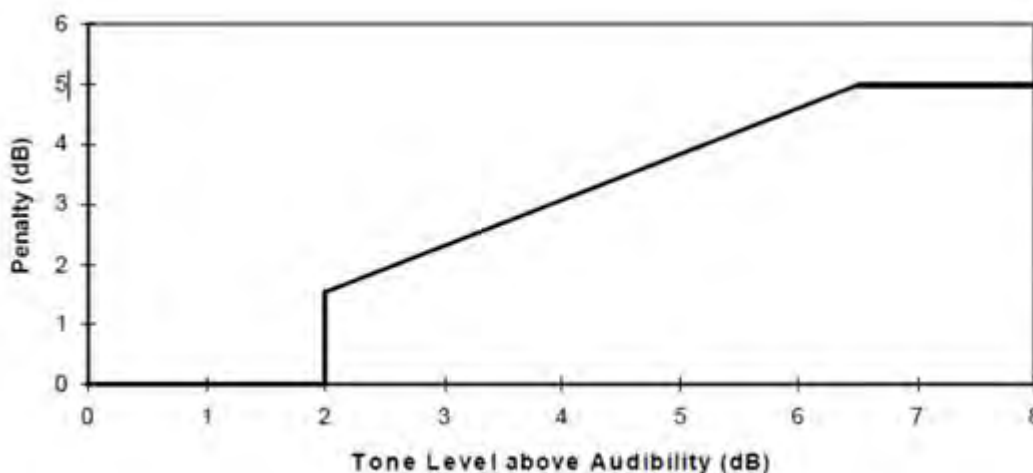
(b) For each 10 minute interval for which LA90,10 minute data have been determined as valid in accordance with Guidance Note 2 a tonal assessment shall be performed on noise immissions during 2 minutes of each 10 minute period. The 2 minute periods should be spaced at 10 minute intervals provided that uninterrupted uncorrupted data are available (“the standard procedure”). Where uncorrupted data are not available, the first available uninterrupted clean 2 minute period out of the affected overall 10 minute period shall be selected. Any such deviations from the standard procedure, as described in Section 2.1 on pages 104-109 of ETSU-R-97, shall be reported.

(c) For each of the 2 minute samples the tone level above or below audibility shall be calculated by comparison with the audibility criterion given in Section 2.1 on pages 104-109 of ETSU-R-97.

(d) The tone level above audibility shall be plotted against wind speed for each of the 2 minute samples. Samples for which the tones were below the audibility criterion or no tone was identified, a value of zero audibility shall be used.

(e) A least squares “best fit” linear regression line shall then be performed to establish the average tone level above audibility for each integer wind speed derived from the value of the “best fit” line at each integer wind speed. If there is no apparent trend with wind speed then a simple arithmetic mean shall be used. This process shall be repeated for each integer wind speed for which there is an assessment of overall levels in Guidance Note 2.

(f) The tonal penalty is derived from the margin above audibility of the tone according to the figure below.



Guidance Note 4

(a) If a tonal penalty is to be applied in accordance with Guidance Note 3 the rating level of the turbine noise at each wind speed is the arithmetic sum of the measured noise level as determined from the best fit curve described in Guidance Note 2 and the penalty for tonal noise as derived in accordance with Guidance Note 3 at each integer wind speed within the range specified by the agreed written assessment protocol.

(b) If no tonal penalty is to be applied then the rating level of the turbine noise at each wind speed is equal to the measured noise level as determined from the best fit curve described in Guidance Note 2.

(c) In the event that the rating level is above the limit(s) set out in the Tables attached to the noise conditions or the noise limits for a complainant's dwelling, the independent consultant shall undertake a further assessment of the rating level to correct for background noise so that the rating level relates to wind turbine noise immission only.

(d) The wind farm operator shall ensure that all the wind turbines in the development are turned off for such period as the independent consultant requires to undertake the further assessment. The further assessment shall be undertaken in accordance with the following steps:

(e). Repeating the steps in Guidance Note 2, with the wind farm switched off, and determining the background noise (L3) at each integer wind speed within the range requested by the Local Planning Authority in its written request and the approved protocol.

(f) The wind farm noise (L1) at this speed shall then be calculated as follows where L2 is the measured level with turbines running but without the addition of any tonal penalty:

$$L_1 = 10 \log \left[10^{L_2/10} - 10^{L_3/10} \right]$$

(g) The rating level shall be re-calculated by adding arithmetically the tonal penalty (if any is applied in accordance with Note 3) to the derived wind farm noise L1 at that integer wind speed.

(h) If the rating level after adjustment for background noise contribution and adjustment for tonal penalty (if required in accordance with note 3 above) at any integer wind speed lies at or below the values set out in the Tables attached to the conditions or at or below the noise limits approved by the Local Planning Authority for a complainant's dwelling then no further action is necessary.

(i) If the rating level at any integer wind speed exceeds the values set out in the Tables attached to the conditions or the noise limits approved by the Local Planning Authority for a complainant's dwelling then the development fails to comply with the conditions.

If you have any queries please let me know

Regards

Louise Akroyd | Environmental Health Officer | Angus Council | Communities | Regulatory Protective & Prevention Services | County Buildings, Market Street, Forfar, DD8 3WE, Tel: (01307) 473382

From: BrennanDG
Sent: 17 November 2014 15:11
To: AkroydL
Subject: FW: 14/00669/FULL - Erection of 2 Wind Turbines, Land 600m West of Witton Farm, Lethnot

Hi Louise,

I was following up on my e-mail below and was wondering if you are in a position to comment further on the suitability of the proposal.

Many thanks,

Damian.

From: BrennanDG
Sent: 20 October 2014 16:42
To: AkroydL
Subject: RE: 14/00669/FULL - Erection of 2 Wind Turbines, Land 600m West of Witton Farm, Lethnot

Louise,

**ERECTION OF 2 WIND TURBINES LAND 600M WEST OF WITTON FARM LETHNOT.
APPLICATION: 14/00669/FULL**

In response to your e-mail I resolved to revisit the property Bogton. Further to internal discussion regarding my findings I would confirm that we consider the property's residential use to be abandoned. Therefore, it should not be considered in any noise assessments.

I hope the above confirmation of the status of Bogton allows for full comment on the suitability of the proposal.

Many thanks,

Damian.

Damian Brennan, Planning Officer (Development Standards), Angus Council, Communities, Planning & Transport Division, County Buildings, Market Street, Forfar, Angus, DD8 3LG. Tel: 01307 473316, E-mail: BrennanDG@angus.gov.uk

From: AkroydL
Sent: 09 October 2014 14:13
To: BrennanDG
Cc: ThomsonSD
Subject: 14/00669/FULL - Erection of 2 Wind Turbines, Land 600m West of Witton Farm, Lethnot

Damian,

**14/00669/FULL
Erection of 2 Wind Turbines, Land 600m West of Witton Farm, Lethnot**

I refer to the above application for the erection of two wind turbines and would advise that I have seen the submitted information and visited the site and have the following comments to make:

1. This is a re-application of a previous proposal (13/00257/FULL) for two Enercon E-48 Wind Turbines.

2. I understand that the agent states that Bogton Cottage is now in a derelict state and they are seeking clarification from the planning department on whether this would need to be included in the noise assessment. If this property could be used as a residential dwelling house it is possible that the derived noise limits at this location would be exceeded and therefore this service also needs clarification on whether or not it is currently considered to be a residential property before we can provide full comment on this application.
3. This department raised previous concerns about the proposal in relation to the submitted noise prediction calculations which did not contain all of the noise sensitive properties predicted to be above 35 dB(A) L90 ETSU-R-97 criteria, namely Bogton Cottages, Tillydovie Farmhouse and the new dwellinghouse at Tillydovie (08/00757/FULL. Once a decision on point 2 above has been made this department will be able to comment further on the revised noise prediction calculations undertaken by Hayes McKenzie.
4. The revised noise prediction calculations submitted show that Tillydovie Cottage will exceed the derived noise limits at 7m/s and a noise mitigation scheme has been proposed to operate the nearest wind turbine to this property in a reduced mode setting during daytime hours. I can advise that I am satisfied that this could be adequately controlled by a planning condition being attached to the consent.

Until a decision has been made about the property at Bogton Cottage I will be unable to comment further on the suitability of the proposal, but in the meantime if you have any queries please let me know.

Regards

Louise Akroyd | Environmental Health Officer | Angus Council | Communities | Regulatory Protective & Prevention Services | County Buildings, Market Street, Forfar, DD8 3WE, Tel: (01307) 473382



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Kalie Jagpal
Assistant Safeguarding Officer
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding – Wind Energy
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands B75 7RL
United Kingdom

Your Reference: 14/00669/FULL

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)121 311 3674

Facsimile [MOD]: +44 (0)121 3112218

Our Reference: 18251

E-mail: DIOODC-IPSSG2a2@mod.uk

Damian Brennan
Angus Council

08/09/2014

Dear Mr Brennan

Please quote in any correspondence: 18251

Site Name: Land 600M West of Witton Farm

Proposal: Erection of 2 Wind Turbines

Planning Application Number: 14/00669/FULL

Site Address: Lethnot Edzell

Thank you for consulting the MOD about the above planning application in your correspondence dated 21/08/2014. I write to advise you that the MOD has no objections to the proposed development

The application is for 2 turbines at 74 metres to blade tip. This has been assessed using the grid reference below as submitted in the planning application or in the developers' pro-forma.

Turbine	100km Square	Easting	Northing
1	NO	55356	69976
2	NO	55594	70017

In the interests of air safety, the MOD requests that the turbines are fitted with aviation lighting. The turbines should be fitted with 25 candela omni-directional red lighting or infrared lighting with an optimised flash pattern of 60 flashes per minute of 200ms to 500ms duration at the highest practicable point.

The principal safeguarding concern of the MOD with respect to the development of wind turbines relates to their potential to create a physical obstruction to air traffic movements and cause interference to Air Traffic Control and Air Defence radar installations.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation Safeguarding wishes to be consulted and notified of the progression of planning applications and submissions relating to this proposal to verify that it will not adversely affect defence interests.

If planning permission is granted we would like to be advised of the following;

- the date construction starts and ends;
- the maximum height of construction equipment;
- the latitude and longitude of every turbine.

This information is vital as it will be plotted on flying charts to make sure that military aircraft avoid this area.

If the application is altered in any way we must be consulted again as even the slightest change could unacceptably affect us.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about the effects of wind turbines on MOD interests can be obtained from the following websites:

MOD: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DIO/WhatWeDo/Operations/ModSafeguarding.htm>

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kalie Jagpal
Assistant Safeguarding Officer
Defence Infrastructure Organisation

SAFEGUARDING SOLUTIONS TO DEFENCE NEEDS



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REFUSED

Legend
Site Boundary

Cairny Hill T74_v1
Location Plan

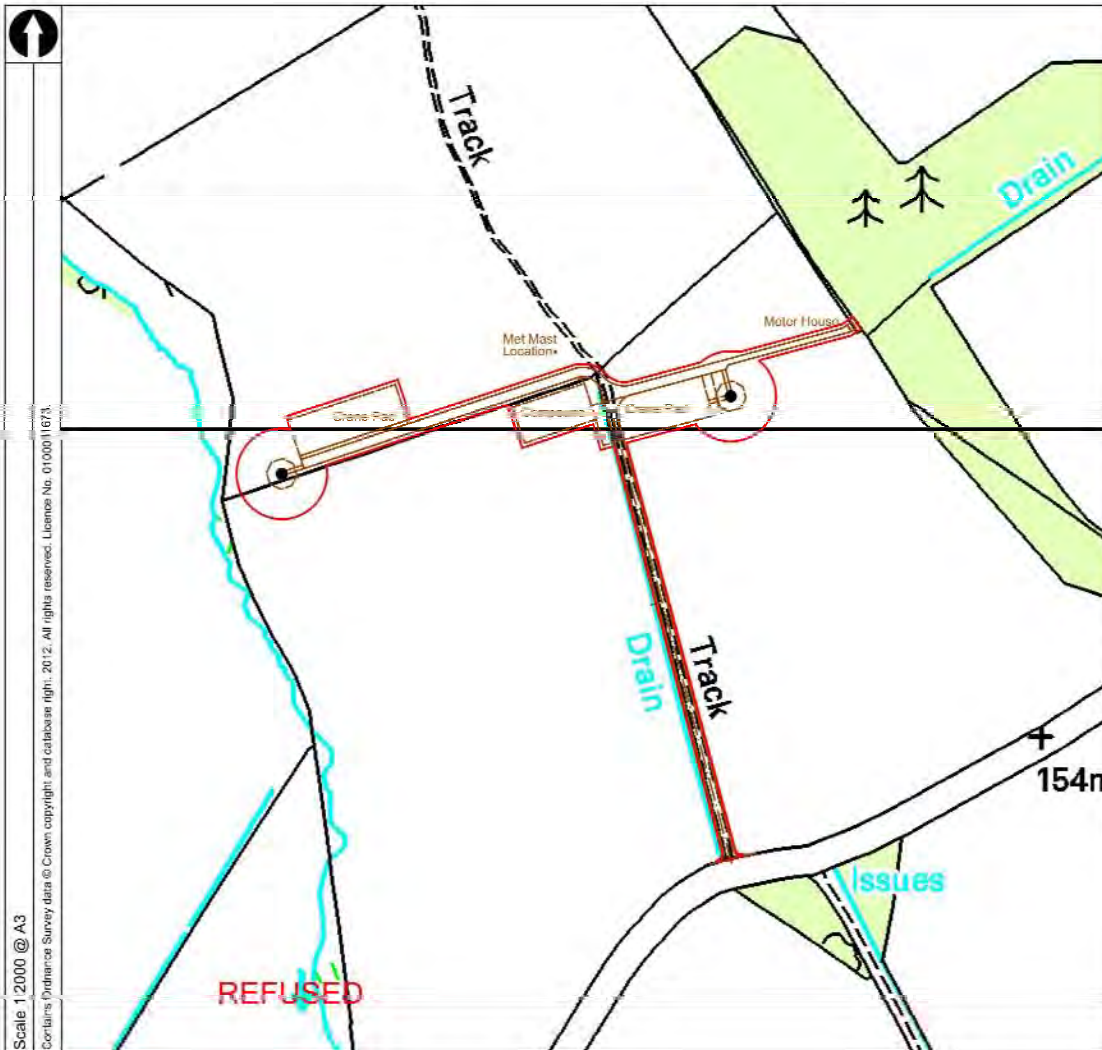


Figure No. 2.1

Revision No. A

Site Layout Plan

Legend

- Site of Lower Cairny Wind Cluster
- Planning Application Boundary
- Turbine Locations

Note:
All land shown on plan is in the ownership of the applicant.

REFUSED

05/09/14 Rev A Amendment to boundary and addition of ownership note.



Lower Cairny Wind Cluster



















TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
(AS AMENDED)
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2013

PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSAL
REFERENCE 14/00669/FULL

To **Mr Greg Yarr**
c/o Roddy Yarr Consulting Ltd
Roddy Yarr
61 Spottiswoode Gardens
St Andrews
KY16 8SB

With reference to your application dated 18 August 2014 for planning permission under the above mentioned Acts and Regulations for the following development, viz.:-

Erection of 2 wind turbines of 50 metres to hub height and 74 metres to blade tip, temporary anemometer mast and ancillary development at Land 600M West Of Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell for Mr Greg Yarr

The Angus Council in exercise of their powers under the above mentioned Acts and Regulations hereby **Refuse Planning Permission (Delegated Decision)** for the said development in accordance with the particulars given in the application and plans docquetted as relative hereto in paper or identified as refused on the Public Access portal.

The reasons for the Council's decision are:-

- 1 That the proposed turbines by virtue of their height and location would result in unacceptable landscape and visual impacts and accordingly the siting and appearance of the turbine has not been chosen to minimise impact on amenity. As such the proposal is contrary to Policy 3 of TAYplan and policies ER5, ER34 and S6 of the Angus Local Plan Review 2009.
- 2 That the proposed turbines by virtue of their height and proximity to the Caterthun Hillforts would have an adverse and unacceptable impact on the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. As such, the proposal is contrary to Policy 3 of TAYplan and Policies ER18 and ER34 of the Angus Local Plan Review 2009.

Amendments:

The application has not been subject of variation.

Informatives:

Dated this **5 February 2015**

Iain Mitchell - Service Manager
Angus Council
Communities
Planning
County Buildings
Market Street
FORFAR
DD8 3LG

**ANGUS COUNCIL
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
SCREENING OPINION
INSTALLATION OF TWO 800KW WIND TURBINES 50M TO HUB HEIGHT AND
74M TO BLADE TIP IN ORDER TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY AT LAND 600M
WEST OF WITTON FARM LETHNOT EDZELL.
PLANNING APPLICATION 14/00669/FULL**

Angus Council has received a planning application for the erection of two wind turbines to Generate Electricity (74 metres to blade tip) at Land 600M West of Witton Farm Lethnot Edzell. The development falls within Schedule 2 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and therefore the application requires a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6.

In this case Angus Council has determined that this is not an EIA development for the following reasons: -

- The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 of the above Regs.;
- The proposal falls within Schedule 2 under (3) Energy Industry, (i) installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (windfarms);
- The proposal does not fall within a sensitive area, eg: SAC, SPA, SSSI, National Park, World Heritage Site or Scheduled Monument etc;
- The proposal exceeds the threshold of 3(i) of Schedule 2 because the hub height of the turbines is 50 metres (ii);
- The proposed turbines are not likely to have “significant environmental effects” having regard to its nature, scale and location. In coming to this view, it is noted that the development does not appear to involve unusually complex or potentially hazardous operations.

29 August 2014

LOWER CAIRNY WIND CLUSTER

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING REPORT

AUGUST 2014



Lower Cairny

Environment and Planning Report, August 2014

Revision No.

Date

Reason

0

Aug 2014

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

The applicant is applying to Angus Council for permission to develop a wind energy resource at Lower Cairny, by Edzell, Angus by erecting two 74m high (tip height) wind turbines with associated infrastructure. Lower Cairny is part of Witton Farm which is a 1,400 acre working farm and the site is located 5km west of Edzell. The site lies at the foot of the south west side of Cairny Hill. The proposed location and the various site constraints associated with the turbine layout are shown within Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2.

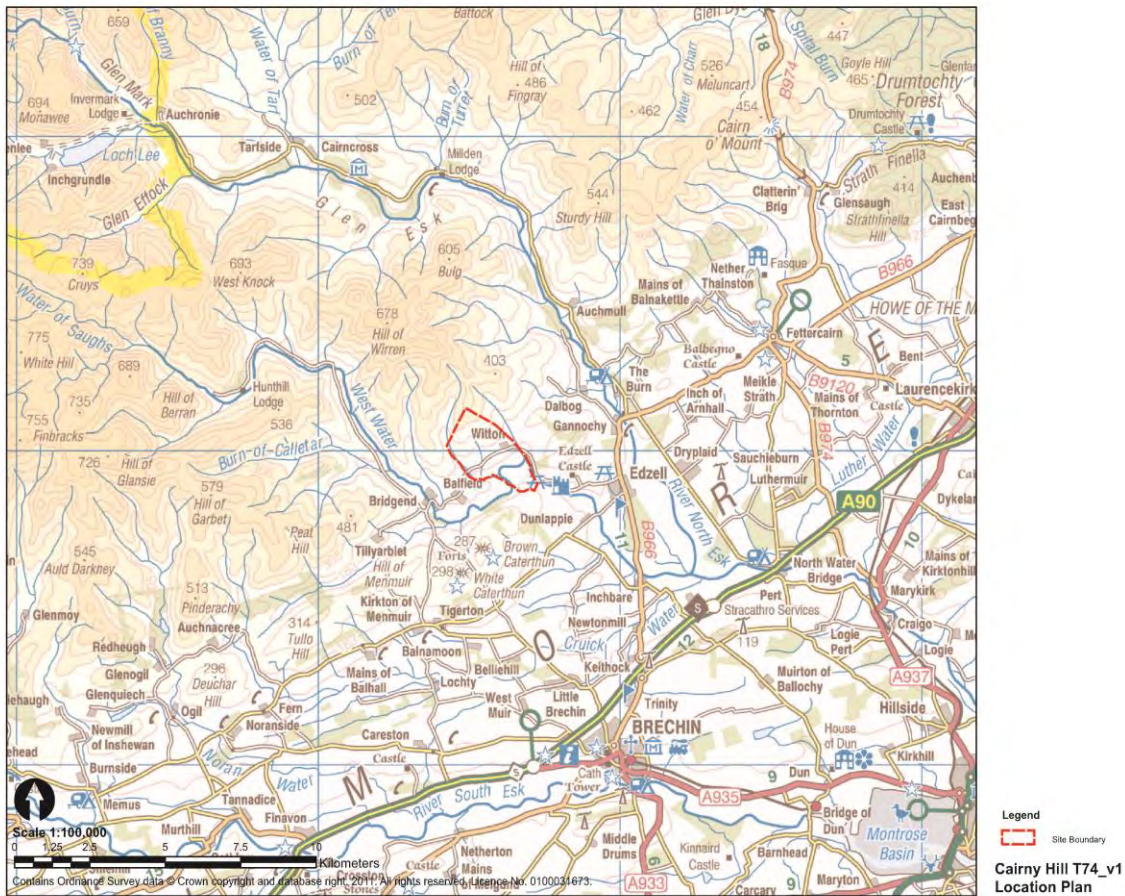


Figure 1.1 Site Location Plan

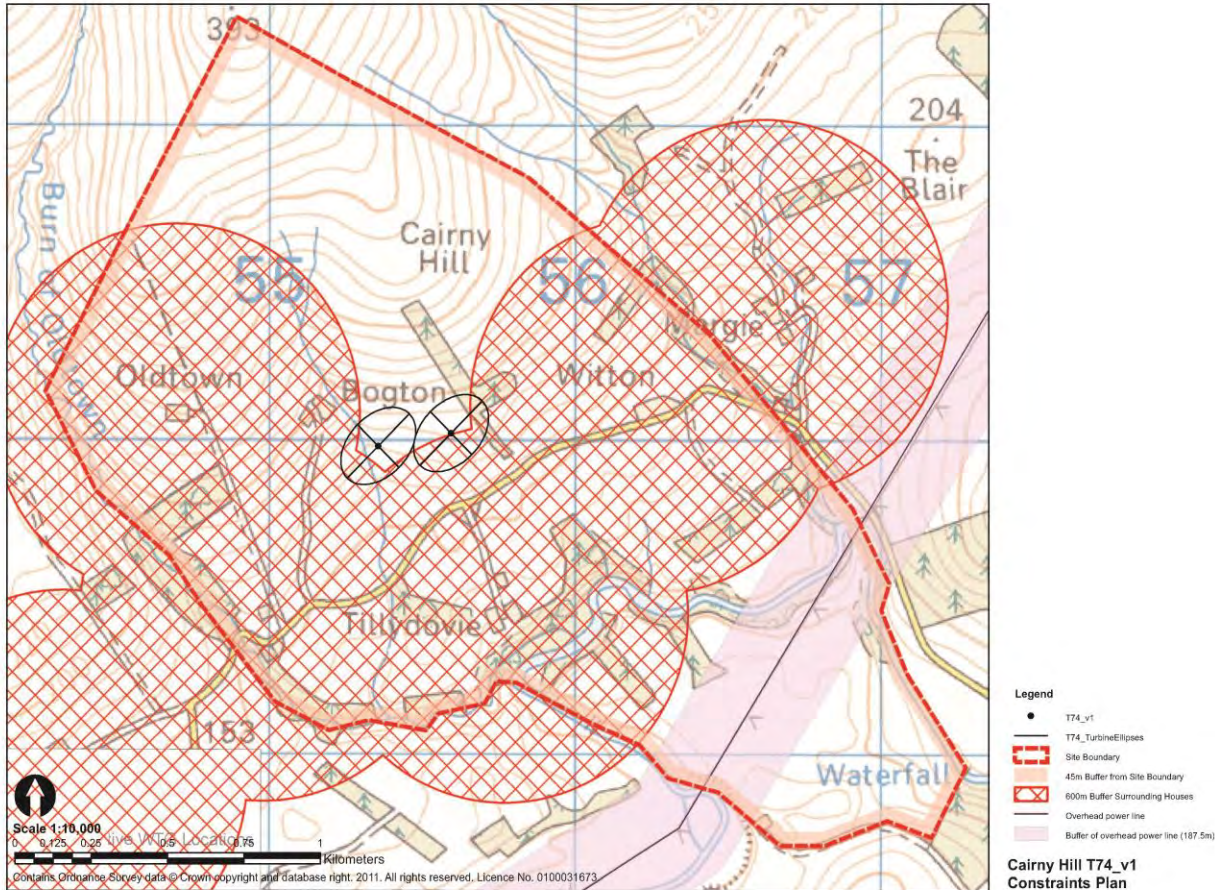


Figure 1.2 Site Constraints Map showing 600m buffer applied to dwellings.

1.2 The Applicant

The applicant procured the farm business in 2005 and since then has invested considerable capital and resources in improving the land and property asset to develop the economic viability of the farm enterprise. The applicant's aim is to diversify part of the farm's operation towards renewable energy generation to reduce energy consumption from fossil fuels and protect the business from rising energy costs and at the same time to lower the farm's carbon footprint.

1.3 Local Authority Pre-Application Discussions, Request for a Screening Opinion and Post-Application Discussions

Pre-application discussions were held with Angus Council and guidance was obtained on the nature of the environmental issues that should be addressed as part of the assessment of the proposed development (Pre-application enquiry 11/00678/PREAPP). Following further discussions, a formal request for a Screening Opinion was submitted to Angus Council on 7th March 2012 (12/00234/EIASCR). In its response of 13th April 2012, Angus Council determined that, based on the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, (regulations 6 (4)) the proposed development does not require an environmental impact assessment. The reasons cited as:

- The development does not give rise to any unusually complex or potentially hazardous environmental effects; and
- The likely impacts are localised and from the initial information provided do not appear to affect any particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable locations in the immediate area.

The development does not require the submission of a full Environmental Statement as required by regulation 2(1) and Schedule 4 of the Regulations.

As part of its deliberations, Angus Council supplied guidance to the applicant as to the relevant policies and issues that should be addressed. These include the following

- TAYplan and Dundee and Angus Structure Plan
- Angus Local Plan and Local Development Plan Scheme March 2014
 - Natural and Built Heritage Policies ER4, 5, 16, 18, 19, 34, 35
 1. North Esk and West Water paleochannels SSSI
 2. Gannochy Gorge SSSI
 3. Protected species
 4. Brown and White Caterthuns
 5. Listed Buildings
 6. Impact on the village of Edzell
 - Landscape and Visual (Policy ER35)
 1. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to be carried out in accordance with SNH guidance. Viewpoints to be agreed with Angus Council.
 2. Cumulative ZTV and assessment (ER35)
 - Residential Amenity within 2km (Policies S6, ER11 and 35)
 1. Noise
 2. Shadow Flicker
 3. Interference with TV and radio reception
 - Roads and Access
 1. Transport and construction traffic assessment and statement
 - Recreation and Leisure (Policy ER35)
 - Aviation (Policies S5, ER34, 35)
 - Other Aspects such as flooding

An application was made in March 2013 under the application reference, 13/00257/FULL - WITTON FARM. This application was commented on by a number of statutory consultees without objection. However, the Environmental Health Officer noted that several of the nearby properties within the ownership of the Applicant would not meet the Council's noise criteria. As a result, the application was withdrawn in August 2013 in order to enable the Applicant to resolve these noise related issues. The Applicant has now developed mitigation measures that respond to the Council's concerns. It is possible to reduce the noise levels of the candidate Enercon E48 turbine by reducing the rotational speed of the

blades, with a resultant reduction in the amount of electrical energy produced. This will be done for wind direction when the property is downwind of the wind turbine, and for the wind speed range over which there is a predicted exceedance of the noise limit. Details are included within Chapter 8.

1.4 Purpose of this Environment and Planning Report

The purpose of this Environment and Planning Report is to present the results of the studies that include environmental and planning assessment of the proposed development. The Report is based on the guidance given to the applicant by Angus Council (detailed above) as part of the formal request for screening opinion described above. The Report details the nature of the scheme that is to be developed and the results of assessment of the likely effects on the environment. The Report also describes the scale and practicalities of mitigation measures that may be required.

The Report is structured in the following format:

The proposed development and scheme design is included within Section 2. Section 3 of the report provides a review of the relevant planning policy for a development of this nature within this part of Angus. Sections 4 – 14 set out the findings of the technical studies and present the conclusions of this work.

1.5 Cumulative Assessment

‘Cumulative effects’ by definition are effects that result from incremental changes caused by past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the proposed development.

Initial reference has been made to the Scottish National Heritage (SNH) Wind Farm Footprint Map dated February 2011 and August 2013, as well as Angus Council’s own register of wind turbine applications which takes the form of a regularly updated spreadsheet, to gain an indication of the status of operational, consented and application wind farm developments within Angus and South Aberdeenshire. Cumulative effects of these developments have been considered in the appropriate technical assessment chapter.

2 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal comprises of 2 no. 74m high wind turbines to blade tip, installation of a 50m high meteorological mast (meteorological mast is for a 12 month period only) and associated temporary and permanent access infrastructure.

2.1 Site Description

Lower Cairny is located five kilometers west of the village of Edzell. The farm unit where the site lies consists of improved farmland that has been in the ownership of the applicant for 8 years. The actual site for wind turbines lies on the northern part of the farm on the junction between improved and unimproved land parcels.

2.2 Justification for the Development

The rising cost of energy is a threat to the long term finances of the farm operation. Since 2005, energy prices have risen by an average of 12% year on year while consumption has remained relatively steady. Energy forecasts predict a continually rising price escalator into the future. In addition to the rising cost of energy, the applicant wishes to develop the wind turbines as part of the farm's range of diversification options. This proposed development is in line with the policy requirements announced in August 2011 by Environment Minister, Richard Lohead where he notes that his vision for an Agri-Renewables Strategy will, 'ensure that land managers can benefit from the renewables revolution and unlock the green energy potential of their land'. The land is in the ownership of the applicant and it has a good wind resource based on the wind speeds recorded by experience from other similar developments in the area, initial monitoring data and the records of the national wind database (NOABL). The development will generate in the order of 4,000MWh/annum electrical output equivalent to 854 homes or 27% of the consumption of the local households in the area.

2.3 Site Selection

The topography of the site at Lower Cairny is that of improved grazing and arable land that lies at the junction between lowland and highland foothills at a height of 170m to 180m AOD. The surrounding hills to the north west of the site range on height from 393m (Black Hill), to 634m (East Wirren) and 678m (The Wirren). The wind cluster has been designed so as not to be visible on the skyline from as many viewpoints as possible. The applicant has carried out initial constraints assessment work including a detailed Landscape Capacity assessment, a Design Statement Study using the information from the Landscape Capacity assessment. This landscape assessment work included the review of other parts of the farm for wind turbine placement. One of the sites considered in the initial stages of the design layout was at a higher level to the north east of Cairny Hill, further up the scarp slope. This particular site was discounted because of landscape capacity and skyline issues. Another potential site on the south side of the road was also discounted because of its proximity to a geological SSSI. The assessment of the preferred Lower Cairny site on the northern side of the road indicates that this location has the capacity to facilitate this development.

Apart from detailed Landscape Capacity assessment work, part of the site selection and assessment included the defining of other site constraints. A 'Constraints' Study was completed to determine the

relevant elements that would dictate the ability of the site to accommodate turbines such as noise receptors, residential amenity and shadow flicker; roads and construction access; telecommunications and fixed links; ecological aspects and impact on the settlement of Edzell, Edzell Castle and the Caterthuns.

As part of the methodical process to address these issues, a full assessment of noise impacts has been completed in close consultation with the Environmental Health Officer from Angus Council including agreeing a detailed noise impact assessment methodology. A detailed ecological survey in the form of a phase 1 habitat survey with associated bat habitat survey and detector count was completed. A telecommunications and fixed link review was also completed. Discussions with Historic Scotland regarding the impact of the proposal on scheduled ancient monuments in the area were also undertaken prior to planning and the impacts assessed. A construction and transport assessment has also been completed. The details of these assessments are included within this Report.

2.4 The Wind Turbine Development

The wind turbine development will consist of 2 machines designed to produce a clean energy source that reduces the farm's energy costs, cuts farm carbon emissions and provides a sustainable financial income for the farm enterprise and the local economy. A 50m high temporary meteorological mast is proposed as part of the development. The collection of weather data using this mast would be for a 12 month period.

The typical components which will be required to facilitate the proposed development are detailed below:

- 2 x 800kW wind turbine generators (dependent upon the final design solution)
- Grid connection and associated infrastructure (cables, substation and transformers)
- 50m high meteorological mast in place for 12 months for collation of wind and other meteorological data
- Upgraded and new access tracks and 'laydown areas' for construction, operation and decommissioning.

Turbine details are as follows:

- Hub height max 50 metres
- Rotor diameter max 48 metres
- Height to blade tip max 74 metres
- Generating capacity (per turbine) max 800 kW
- Total Wind farm generation capacity max 1600kW
- Grid Co-ordinates:
 - Turbine 1 NO 355356mE NO 769976mN
 - Turbine 2 NO 355594mE NO 770017mN
 - 50m high meteorological mast – NO 355400mE NO 770050mN

The final choice of turbine is based on an 800kW Enercon E48 machine. This wind turbine specification has been used for assessing the various receptors for the scheme, including noise impacts. Figures 2.1 to 2.9 illustrate the nature of the layout of the turbines, their location and the associated infrastructure.

2.5 Access

The site is currently accessed from a track leading north from the unclassified road that proceeds west from Edzell towards Glen Lethnot. The existing farm track that will be used to access the site commences 800m from the main farm buildings at Witton Farm. This existing access track is 200m in length and will need some improvement works in order to make it strong enough to facilitate movement of heavy plant and machinery. This detail is described within the Transport and Construction Impact Assessment section of this report.

2.6 Meteorological Mast

The application includes for the installation and operation (for a minimum 12 month period) of a 50m high meteorological mast. This temporary structure will be used to gain the necessary data to confirm the applicant's existing knowledge of the wind regime at the site obtained from earlier assessment.

2.7 Grid Connection

The wind turbine generators would be connected via underground cables into a local substation. All electricity generated from the wind farm would then be exported into the existing local grid. An initial grid connection assessment is currently being carried out which will identify the potential connection option. The connection to the grid will be the subject of a separate application.

2.8 Decommissioning

The anticipated operational life of the wind cluster is 25 years. Before the end of the operational period a decision will be made on whether the wind farm will be decommissioned and the wind turbines removed from site or whether the site is maintained with the turbines replaced. The final option will be subject to an agreement with the Planning Authority.

3. REVIEW OF PLANNING POLICY

This section of the report details the relevant policies and guidance that are relevant to the application and comments on how the proposed turbine cluster aligns with these from a planning perspective.

3.1 Introduction

Sections 25 and 37 (2) of The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 require that planning decisions be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

This chapter identifies and assesses the development plan policies and material considerations relevant to the determination of this planning application.

Strongly pro-renewables policy frameworks have recently emerged at EU, UK and Scottish government levels. The need to reduce greenhouse gases and our dependence on fossil fuels in order to tackle climate change and the imperative of filling the emerging energy gap with low carbon alternatives are the two main drivers for change. For the farming community, greater energy security and cost certainty are also drivers.

EU and UK Climate Change and Renewable Energy Targets

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) determined that global emissions will have to be stabilized by around 2020 and then reduced by 50% of 1990 levels by 2050. Developed countries will need to cut their emissions by 30% of 1990 levels by 2020 and 60 to 80% by 2050. The EU has unilaterally agreed a new Climate and Energy Package which aims to deliver cuts in emissions of 20% by 2020 which will be increased to 30% cuts in the event of a global deal.

In the UK, energy responsibilities have been split (post-devolution) between Scottish and UK governments. Energy policy remains a reserved matter and is a UK responsibility. The protection of the environment, planning and the promotion of energy efficiency are devolved Scottish government responsibilities. Most recently, the Climate Change Act 2008 established a system of 5 year carbon budgets to manage the trajectory of UK emissions to a target of 80% cuts by 2050. It also provided devolved administrations with the ability to set their own carbon budgets and control other climate change issues.

Scottish Climate Change and Renewable Energy Targets

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions to be at least 80% lower in 2050 compared with 1990 levels. An interim target also requires emissions to be at least 42% lower by 2020 compared with 1990 levels. The Act requires the Scottish Government to act to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions year on year from 2011 to 2050

- Increase the rate of reduction from 2020 onwards to at least 3% per year; and
- Specify more detailed annual targets in 2010 for each year to 2022.

The Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)

The Scottish Government produced a plan entitled 'Meeting Scotland's Statutory Climate Change Targets' in June 2009. The Plan sets out high level measures required in a range of sectors to meet Scotland's statutory climate change targets to 2020 and the work that needs to be done over the next decade to meet an 80% reduction target. For electricity, the target is for 100% of Scotland's electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2020 with an interim target of 31% by 2011.

The Renewables Action Plan (2009)

In addition to the Climate Change Delivery Plan 2009, the Scottish Government has set out a Renewables Action Plan (RAP) for 2009. This Plan identifies collective actions by government, its agencies and partners to ensure that 20% of Scotland's energy use comes from renewable sources by 2020. These include:

- Maximising the economic, social and environmental potential of Scotland's renewable resource, across different technologies;
- Establishing Scotland as a UK and EU leader in the field;
- Ensuring maximum returns for the Scottish domestic economy; and
- Meeting the targets for energy from renewables, and for emissions reduction, to 2020 and beyond.

Section 8 of the RAP covers energy consents and planning. Actions needed in this sector describe the need to:

- Create a supportive planning landscape;
- Ensure the planning and consenting regimes better support investment in renewables in Scotland; and Continue to work with Planning Authorities to develop their strategic locational guidance in line with Planning Advice Note (PAN) 45 (now superseded) and to ensure that the planning system produces decisions that are efficient, transparent, consistent and timely.

Each renewable technology is referred to in the Annex of the RAP. With regard to onshore wind, the vision is expressed as "continued expansion of portfolio of onshore wind farms to help meet renewables targets, with robust planning frameworks supporting timely processing of consents applications and ensuring wind farms are consented where they are environmentally acceptable."

The headline ambitions are expressed as:

- Supporting the development of onshore wind farms in locations where it is environmentally acceptable, and hence contributes most effectively to sustainable economic growth; and
- Maximising community engagement with onshore wind projects and providing support for small scale and community-scale developments.

Agri-Renewables Strategy (August 2011)

On 5th August 2011, the Environment Minister, Richard Lochhead announced the creation of a Agri-Renewables Strategy to be in place by Summer 2012. Mr Lochhead said, "Working with the industry, the Scottish Government is keen to deliver a strategy that ensures our renewables potential, boosts rural development, and a more profitable agriculture sector. The Agri-Renewables Strategy will be developed in cooperation with industry representatives and will build on the Scottish Government's existing renewables activity in the agricultural sector. In a few years' time, I hope every farm in Scotland is benefiting from renewable energy in some shape or form. If we can make that vision reality, then that will be truly transformational." The wind cluster at Lower Cairny complies with this Agri-Renewables Strategy.

3.2 National Planning Policy and Advice

Scottish Planning Policy

Policy:

The new Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) was published in June 2014 and is a statement of Scottish Government policy on land use planning. It re-affirms inter alia that electricity generated from renewable energy sources is a vital part of the response to climate change. The following policy aspects are considered to be particularly relevant to the proposed Lower Cairny Wind Cluster.

The SPP 17 notes that National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) will facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy, particularly by supporting diversification of the energy sector. The spatial strategy as a whole aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

The SPP notes in Paragraph 75 that planning policies should encourage rural development that supports prosperous and sustainable communities and businesses whilst protecting and enhancing environmental quality.

Paragraph 83 notes that in remote rural areas, where new development can often help to sustain fragile communities, plans and decision-making should support and sustain fragile and dispersed communities through provision for appropriate development, especially housing and community-owned energy; and other development which supports sustainable economic growth in a range of locations, taking account of environmental protection policies and addressing issues of location, access, siting, design and environmental impact.

The SPP subject policies on renewable energy (Paragraphs 152-174) set out how the planning system should manage the process of encouraging, approving and implementing renewable energy proposals when preparing development plans and determining planning applications.

SPP paragraph 154 outlines the Scottish Ministers' commitment to increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources in response to climate change, and the need to ensure and diversify energy supplies. It identifies that Scottish Ministers wish to expand renewable energy generation capacity. It confirms 30% of overall energy demand from renewable sources by 2020 and it confirms the equivalent of 100 % of Scotland's electricity demand. The intention of the SPP is that this renewable energy target should be met by a range of renewable technologies. However, paragraph 182 recognises that onshore wind power is currently making the most significant contribution of any renewable technology and that this is expected to continue.

SPP Paragraph 153 states that "Efficient supply of low carbon and low cost heat and generation of heat and electricity from renewable energy sources are vital to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and can create significant opportunities for communities. Renewable energy also presents a significant opportunity for associated development, investment and growth of the supply chain, particularly for ports and harbours identified in the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan 62. Communities can also gain new opportunities from increased local ownership and associated benefits."

SPP paragraph 154 states that the planning system should *"support the development of a diverse range of electricity generation from renewable energy technologies – including the expansion of renewable energy generation capacity – and the development of heat networks."* Paragraph 155 also states that, *"Development plans should seek to ensure an area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable sources is achieved, in line with national climate change targets, giving due regard to relevant environmental, community and cumulative impact considerations."*

SPP paragraph 161 establishes that planning authorities should develop spatial frameworks that support the development of wind energy farms in locations where there is potential for wind farm development according to designations and environmental interests noted in Table 1. This Table notes that wind farm development in areas (Group 3 Areas) that fall outwith Groups 1 and 2 are likely to be acceptable, subject to detailed consideration against identified policy criteria. It provides that development plans should provide a clear indication of the potential for development of wind farms of all scales, and should set out the criteria that will be considered in deciding applications for all wind farm developments. It states that the criteria will vary depending on the scale of the development and its relationship to the character of the surrounding area, but are likely to include:

- Net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities
- Landscape and visual impact;
- Effects on the natural heritage and historic environment;
- Contribution of the development to renewable energy generation targets;
- Effect on the local and national economy and tourism and recreation interests;

- Benefits and disbenefits for communities;
- Aviation and telecommunications;
- Noise and shadow flicker; and
- Cumulative impact.

Paragraphs 202 and 203 state that, *“The siting and design of development should take account of local landscape character. Development management decisions should take account of potential effects on landscapes and the natural and water environment, including cumulative effects. Developers should seek to minimise adverse impacts through careful planning and design, considering the services that the natural environment is providing and maximising the potential for enhancement. Planning permission should be refused where the nature or scale of proposed development would have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment. Direct or indirect effects on statutorily protected sites will be an important consideration, but designation does not impose an automatic prohibition on development.”*

Whilst the NPF3 sets out in statute the Scottish Government’s proposals to protect National Parks and National Scenic Areas from further onshore wind energy development, SPP provides the details around how these proposals should be implemented through the development planning process.

Spatial Frameworks

A key change from the former SPP is that the new SPP (June 2014) removes the distinction requiring planning authorities to only produce spatial frameworks for wind farms of greater than 20 MW. Instead, paragraph 161 of the new SPP now requires that planning authorities develop spatial frameworks for all scales of wind farm development appropriate to their areas. The new SPP also proposes a more detailed hierarchy and explanation of constraints to and opportunities for wind energy developments in local authority areas, in paragraph 169 for instance and Table 1 of the SPP.

It is considered that the production of a spatial framework for the consideration of wind energy developments under 20 MW is particularly applicable to Angus given that that the vast majority of wind energy developments in Angus have to date been in the form of single turbines, or small clusters of turbines, rather than wind farms. However, Angus Council’s Implementation Guide does not currently provide a spatial framework for the consideration of wind farms under 20 MW.

Angus Council has carried out a Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus – Ironside Farrar, Final Report, March 2014. This Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus (SLCAWEA) report, undertaken as part of a joint study with neighbouring Aberdeenshire to the north, is to provide strategic guidance on the capacity of the landscape across both areas to accommodate wind turbine development, and to inform the review of the Angus Development Plans’ spatial framework and supplementary planning guidance, in line with Scottish Planning Policy. SPP and Scottish Government guidance identifies cumulative impacts and landscape capacity as being critical to the identification of areas of search as part of spatial frameworks, and the assessment within this Environment and Planning Report has thus been

prepared to inform the Council on the issues of landscape capacity and cumulative impact. A detailed assessment of the proposal in accordance with this recently published guidance is contained in Chapter 4 below.

The criteria that will be considered by Angus Council when determining planning applications for medium to large wind turbines are set out in the Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Proposals which was published in June 2012, Policies ER34 Renewable Energy Developments and ER35 Wind Energy Development. The compliance of the proposal with Angus Council's planning guidance and policies is discussed later in this chapter.

National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3)

Policy:

Scotland's third National Planning Framework (NPF3) sets out a long term vision for the development of Scotland. It was adopted in June 2014.

NPF3 is the spatial expression of the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy - with a focus on supporting sustainable economic growth and the transition to a low carbon economy. NPF3 sets out the ambition for Scotland as a whole, and highlights the distinctive opportunities for sustainable growth in our cities and towns, our rural areas and our coast and islands. NPF3 will be taken into account in all strategic and local development plans in Scotland.

The generation of renewable energy remains a key theme of NPF3, with paragraph 3.8 identifying that the Scottish Government want to generating the equivalent of at least 100% of gross electricity consumption from renewables by 2020 and paragraph 3.9 stating that "*we want to continue to capitalise on our wind resource.*"

Paragraph 3.23 identifies that the Scottish Government expect that onshore wind will continue to make a significant contribution to the diversification of energy supplies. However, whilst there is continued support for the development of onshore wind there is also an increased focus in NPF3 on balancing this commitment with protecting nationally important landscapes, with paragraph 3.23 stating that "*we do not wish to see wind farm development in our National Parks and National Scenic Areas.*"

Commentary

The location of the proposal, which lies outwith any National Parks and National Scenic Areas, is also in accordance with the policy thrust within NPF3 which seeks to protect nationally important landscapes.

For the reasons set out above, it is therefore considered that the proposal is in accordance with the aims and objectives of the proposed NPF3.

Policy:

At paragraph 3.15 it states that, *“In line with our commitment to reducing social and spatial inequalities in Scotland, the transition to a low carbon economy will provide opportunities for communities across the country. As a key part of this, we are aiming to achieve at least 500 MW of renewable energy in community and local ownership by 2020 and are working to secure greater benefits from commercial-scale developments.”*

NPF3 is also supportive of the role of small-scale renewable energy projects. Paragraph 3.24 states that, *“Local and community ownership and small-scale generation can have a lasting impact on rural Scotland, building business and community resilience and providing alternative sources of income. Collectively, the potential benefits of community energy projects are nationally significant.”*

Commentary:

The annual generation from the proposed turbines is estimated at approximately 4.0 gigawatt-hours (GWh) based on a capacity factor of 27.9 %. This 27.9 % capacity factor is taken from the most recent figures of capacity factors for onshore wind in Scotland from 2000 to 2012 provided by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (2014a). Capacity factor is the ratio of the actual energy produced in a given period to the hypothetical maximum possible, i.e. running full time at rated power. This figure is derived as follows:

- 1,600 kilowatts (kW) (2 x 800 kW) x 8,760 hours/year x 0.279 (capacity factor) = 3,910,464 kilowatt hours (kWh) or approx. 4.0 GWh.

DECC (2014b) gives 2012 average electricity consumption in Scotland as 4,577 kWh and average consumption in Aberdeenshire at 5,823 kWh. On the basis of these figures and the predicted annual generation figure of 4.0 GWh, it is estimated that the proposal will supply renewable electricity equivalent to the approximate annual domestic needs of up to 854 Scottish households and 671 Aberdeenshire households per annum.

The proposal will therefore make a positive and valuable contribution towards both the development of Scotland’s renewable energy development and the development of a more decentralised pattern of energy generation in Angus.

For the reasons set out above, it is therefore considered that the proposal is in accordance with the aims and objectives of NPF3.

Scottish Government Web Based Advice on Onshore Wind TurbinesPolicy:

In February 2011, the Scottish Government introduced the first tranche of web based renewables advice which replaces PAN 45 – Renewable Energy Technologies (revised in 2002) and its supporting Annex 2: Spatial Frameworks (2008). The on-line advice is intended to be more succinct

and to provide a user-friendly resource offering guidance on new technologies and processes, with clarification of the roles of planning authorities, consultees and developers in enabling development.

The guidance (last updated 24 October 2012) states that the suggested areas of focus for planning authorities should include:

- Providing greater clarity on where groups of wind turbines can be located by ensuring that a spatial framework for wind farms >20 MW has been set out in the development plan and addressing the potential below 20 MW where appropriate;
- Detailing criteria to be applied in assessing wind turbine applications; and
- Ensuring that planning conditions and agreements for wind turbine approvals are reasonable and proportionate.

In considering the landscape impacts of wind farms when determining planning applications, the guidance recognises that the receiving landscape features and the design of the development can play a significant role in ensuring the proposals are integrated into the landscape setting. It states that *“the ability of the landscape to absorb development often depends largely on features of landscape character such as, landform, ridges, hills, valleys and vegetation. This can also be influenced by careful siting and the skills of the designer”*. The guidance also refers to the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Landscape character Assessments that should be used to define the characteristics of the landscape in which any proposed wind turbine would be located.

Other criteria identified in the guidance to be assessed in the determination of wind farm proposals include impacts on wildlife and habitats, communities (as a result of shadow flicker, noise, electromagnetic interference and ice throw), aviation and other defence matters, road traffic impacts and cumulative impacts.

Commentary:

It is considered that all of the criteria identified in the Scottish Government guidance to be considered in the determination of wind farm proposals (with the exception of a spatial framework to guide development proposal) are currently met within the policies contained within the TAYplan, June 2012. An assessment of the proposal against these policy criteria is discussed below.

3.3 TAYplan June 2012

The approved strategic development plan is the TAYplan which was approved in June 2012. This strategic plan replaces the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan 2002. This plan sets out the strategic policies for the Tay region, namely, Dundee, Perth, Angus and North Fife. The TAYplan comments on sustainability issues in a number of strategic areas with objectives and a vision, Figure 3.1. The TAYplan is a long term plan for Scotland’s ‘susTAYnable’ region, with sustainability placed at the heart of policy. The vision for the TAYplan is that, *“by 2032, the Tayplan region will be sustainable,*

more attractive, competitive and vibrant without creating an unacceptable burden on our planet". The Plan provides a clear policy framework for shaping better quality place and in doing so assisting in meeting Climate Change targets. This approach was applauded by the Scottish Government in July 2010, "TAYplan Partnership is currently the best example we have of a public body responding to climate change duties". This forms the basis for the TAYplan's response to climate change embedded in all policy thinking.

The TAYplan identifies that the most appropriate locations for energy developments will be determined by Policy 6: Energy and Waste/Resource Management Infrastructure. Policy 6 Part A provides that suitable locations for energy infrastructure should be identified through Local Development Plans.

Policy 6 Part B relates to locational guidance for waste/resource management infrastructure only and is not therefore considered relevant to the proposed Wind Cluster.

Policy 6 Part C provides that Local Development Plans and development proposals should ensure that all areas of search, allocated sites, routes and decisions on development proposals for energy and waste/resource management infrastructure have been justified, at a minimum, on the basis of the following considerations:

Consideration 1 - The specific land take requirements associated with the infrastructure technology and associated statutory safety exclusion zones where appropriate;

Consideration 2 - Waste/resource management proposals are justified against the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan and support the delivery of the waste/resource management hierarchy.

Consideration 3 - Proximity of resources (e.g. woodland, wind or waste material); and to users/customers, grid connections and distribution networks for the heat, power or physical materials and waste products, where appropriate;

Consideration 4 - Anticipated effects of construction and operation on air quality, emissions, noise, odour, surface and ground water pollution, drainage, waste disposal, radar installations and flight paths, and, of nuisance impacts on off-site properties;

Consideration 5 - Sensitivity of landscapes (informed by landscape character assessments and other work), the water environment, biodiversity, geo-diversity, habitats, tourism, recreational access and listed/scheduled buildings and structures;

Consideration 6 – Impacts of associated new grid connections and distribution or access infrastructure;

Consideration 7 - Cumulative impacts of the scale and massing of multiple developments, including existing infrastructure;

Consideration 8 - Impacts upon neighbouring planning authorities (both within and outwith TAYplan); and,

Consideration 9 - Consistency with the National Planning Framework and its Action Programme.

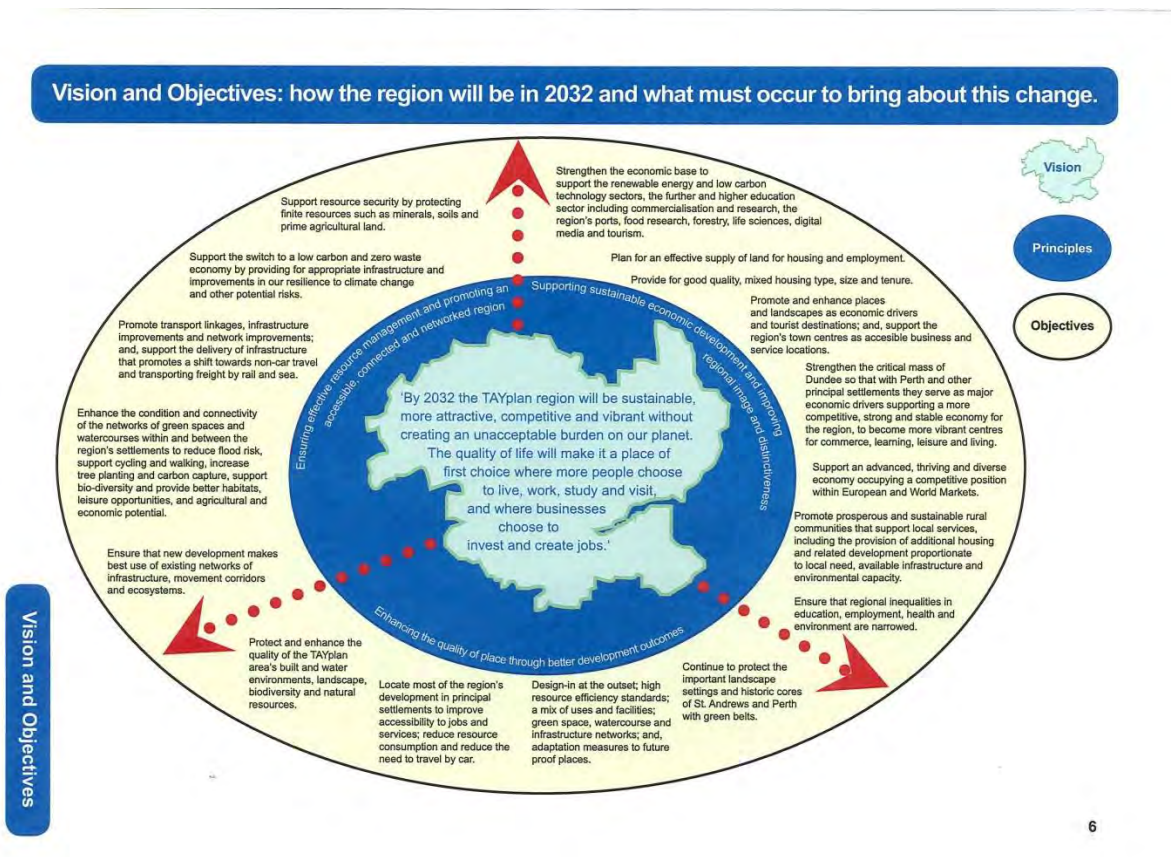


Figure 3.1 TAYplan Vision and Objectives (source: TAYplan June 2012)

Commentary

Dealing with the consideration of Policy 6 Part C (noted in Section 3.1.2 above), in turn, as regards **consideration 1**, the proposed Wind Cluster will have a relatively small footprint of approximately 1.1 hectares, and the majority of land on which it is built can continue to be used for agricultural purposes whilst the proposed Wind Cluster is operational. Furthermore, this direct loss would be fully reversible once the turbines have been decommissioned. The proposed Wind Cluster does not fall within any statutory safety exclusion zones. It is therefore considered that the proposed Wind Cluster is in accordance with this consideration, Policy 6 Part C.

The proposed Wind Cluster is not for a waste/resource management proposal and is not therefore subject to **consideration 2**.

With regard to **consideration 3**, the proposed Wind Cluster is located on a site that benefits from exposure to high wind speeds. The site also enables the energy to be used directly by the institution to offset the use of grid electricity and thus significantly reduce the farm's carbon emissions. Direct use of the electrical energy generated also reduces the farm's exposure to rapidly rising energy costs. It is therefore considered that the proposed Wind Cluster is in accordance with this consideration.

Turning to **consideration 4**, the Environment and Planning Report submitted in support of this planning application assesses the construction and operational impacts of the proposed Wind Cluster in relation to air quality, noise, surface and ground water pollution and drainage. The Report also assesses the impacts of the proposed Wind Cluster on aviation and defence interests. Potential nuisance impacts on off-site properties which may arise due to telecommunications interference, noise and shadow flicker are also comprehensively assessed within the Report. On the basis of the Report findings it is considered that the impacts of the proposed Wind Cluster on the above considerations will not be significantly detrimental and could be adequately controlled through both the mitigation measures proposed or through conditions. In view of this it can be concluded that the proposed Wind Cluster therefore complies with this consideration.

As regards **consideration 5**, extensive effort has been made during the design strategy for the proposed Wind Cluster to minimise impacts on the local and wider landscape character. As a result, the landscape and visual impact assessment within the Environment and Planning Report concludes that the layout of

the proposed Wind Cluster as submitted is of a simple, geometric composition closely related to the detailed grain of the landscape and that the proposed Wind Cluster constitutes a pleasing, balanced and coherent appearance from key viewpoints in terms of its visual composition and arrangement. It is considered that the application site has the landscape capacity to accommodate the proposed Wind Cluster.

Subject to best construction practice and appropriate mitigation measures as identified in the Environment and Planning Report being employed, no significant adverse impacts are predicted on the water environment.

The habitats on the site of the proposed Wind Cluster are typical of the agricultural landscape common in this part of Angus and are considered to be of no more than local conservation value. On the basis of the Environment and Planning Report it is concluded that the proposed Wind Cluster would not have any detrimental impacts on biodiversity and habitats.

The impacts of the proposed Wind Cluster upon tourism and recreation are assessed within the Environment and Planning Report. It is concluded that the likelihood of unacceptable impacts on tourism and recreation as a result of the proposed Wind Cluster are small and would certainly not justify the withholding of planning permission.

The Environment and Planning Report concludes that there would be no significant impacts upon any listed and scheduled buildings as a result of the proposed Wind Cluster.

In view of the above it can be concluded that the proposed Wind Cluster complies with consideration 5.

As regards **consideration 6**, at this stage it is submitted that it is unreasonable to require full details of the proposed grid connection from the proposed Wind Cluster. The grid connection will be the subject of a separate Section 37 application under the Electricity Act 1989 and should consequently be considered separately once this planning application has been determined. However, indicative details of the route and scale of transmission lines required in order to achieve a grid connection have been received from SSE.

With regards **consideration 7**, the cumulative impact of the proposed Wind Cluster has been assessed against landscape and visual, ecology, ornithology, hydrology, hydrogeology and geology, cultural heritage, noise and vibration and traffic and transport within the Environment and Planning Report. In accordance with Scottish Planning Policy, this cumulative assessment takes into account existing wind farms and turbines, those which have permission and valid applications for wind farms which have not been determined. No unacceptable cumulative impacts as a result of the proposed Wind Cluster are predicted. On this basis it is considered that the proposed Wind Cluster complies with this consideration.

In relation to **consideration 8**, no consultation has yet been undertaken by Angus Council with neighbouring planning authorities. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment shows that there is no reason why there would be an impact beyond the boundaries of Angus. Consequently the proposed Wind Cluster is considered to comply with this consideration.

Turning finally to **consideration 9**, core parts of the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) relate to the realisation of the potential of Scotland's renewable energy resources and strengthening local communities. Section 3.8 of NPF3 notes that, "by 2020, we aim to reduce total final energy demand by 12%. To achieve this, and maintain secure energy supplies, improved energy efficiency and further diversification of supplies will be required. We want to meet at least 30% of overall energy demand from renewables by 2020 – this includes generating the equivalent of at least 100% of gross electricity consumption from renewables, with an interim target of 50% by 2015." With onshore wind offering the most efficient and competitive renewable technology in the short to medium term, this ambitious policy target provides a strong justification for the principle of the proposed Wind Cluster.

Section 3.7 of NPF3 goes on to state that "*A planned approach to development has ensured that onshore wind energy development largely avoids our internationally and nationally protected areas. Whilst there is strong public support for wind energy as part of the renewable energy mix, opinions about onshore wind in particular locations can vary. In some areas, concern is expressed about the scale, proximity and impacts of proposed wind energy developments. In others, it is recognised as an opportunity to improve the long-term resilience of rural communities. We are seeing more communities benefiting from local ownership of renewables, with at least 285 MW of community and locally-owned schemes installed by 2013.*"

Section 3.24 of NPF3 notes that, “Local and community ownership and small-scale generation can have a lasting impact on rural Scotland, building business and community resilience and providing alternative sources of income. Collectively, the potential benefits of community energy projects are nationally significant.”

The Environment and Planning Report submitted in support of this application establishes that the site is capable of accommodating the proposed Wind Cluster and will not result in any unacceptable impacts on any environmental resources and communities. The development will help a rural business to diversify and it will support a local supply chain that is of significant benefit to the local community in terms of the productivity of the farm unit as a result of this development. On this basis it is considered that the proposed Wind Cluster is consistent with NPF3 and this policy consideration.

For the reasons set out above it is therefore considered that the proposed Wind Cluster is justified in terms of the considerations above and is therefore in accordance with Policy ECON 6.

There are no other policies within the TAYplan which are considered to be relevant to the proposed Wind Cluster. In conclusion, the proposed Wind Cluster has been assessed against the provisions of the approved TAYplan and is in accordance with the aims and objectives of the policies included therein.

3.4 Angus Local Development Plan Scheme, March 2014 and Angus Local Plan Review, February 2009

The system of development planning for Scotland introduced by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 is based on Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) for the city region areas of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Local Development Plans (LDPs) throughout Scotland. Angus Council is a joint partner in the preparation of TAYplan (the SDP for the Dundee, Perth, Angus and North Fife area) and is also required to prepare a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for Angus excluding that part in the Cairngorms National Park. The Angus LDP will deal with the full breadth of the authority’s planning policy, look at least 10 years ahead , and reflect the TAYplan spatial strategy and strategic planning guidelines.

During 2013 Angus Council Forward Planning staff continued work towards preparation of the Angus LDP including continued assessment of the consultation responses to the Main Issues Report and Environmental Report. An overview of the consultation response was the subject of a report to the

Infrastructure Services Committee in March 2013 (Report 137/13 refers). Officers have since assessed each individual consultation response (including a significant number made after the deadline) and their impact on the development strategy proposed in the Main Issues Report. Other work has included: Commissioning and managing the drafting and publication of the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus.

Angus Local Development Plan Scheme, March 2014 and Angus Local Plan Review, 2009

The Local Plan Review 2009 is in the process of being updated and the Angus Development Plan Scheme and the Main Issues Report of March 2014 includes details on how wind energy developments will be treated. The ideas include the plan to create a more detailed map-based approach that builds on the output from the recently completed Ironside Farrar Report on Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus. The following Policies are considered to have relevance to the proposal and the proposal has been evaluated against these.

Policy S1 : Development Boundaries

- (a) Within development boundaries proposals for new development on sites not allocated on Proposals Maps will generally be supported where they are in accordance with the relevant policies of the Local Plan.
- (b) Development proposals on sites outwith development boundaries (i.e. in the countryside) will generally be supported where they are of a scale and nature appropriate to the location and where they are in accordance with the relevant policies of the Local Plan.
- (c) Development proposals on sites contiguous with a development boundary will only be acceptable where there is a proven public interest and social, economic or environmental considerations confirm there is an overriding need for the development which cannot be met within the development boundary.

Commentary

In terms of Policy S1, the turbine development has considered a range of guidance including the Angus Windfarms – Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impacts Study (AWLC) (Ironside Farrar September 2008), as well as the recently published '*Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus*' (SLCAWEA) report. The development has also considered the Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Proposals issued by Angus Council.

In the Implementation Guide of June 2012, Page 47 refers to the Landscape Unit, Highland Foothills. The development site is located within the Highland Foothills (Edzell Foothills) Landscape Type number 5. The Implementation Guide provides commentary on the size and scale of turbines that can be accommodated within the Edzell Foothills. It notes that machines should be located on lower ground only.

The design approach for Lower Cairny has located the proposed turbines on the lower slope areas within the LCT, where they relate directly to the local landscape pattern of the improved and unimproved agricultural fields rather than the more open moorland upper slope area. This approach also ensures that the proposed turbines would not appear as skyline features except in views from within very close proximity, and they would be considerable visual separation between the turbines and the skyline of hills which forms the backdrop to much of Angus. Siting the turbines low down also assists in reducing inter-visibility with other wind energy projects, although these currently limited within the immediate surrounding area.

In reality, the topography and geomorphology of the land is such that the development site lies on the boundary of Lowland, Glens and Highland Foothills where highly cultivated arable and grassland passes into improved and semi-improved grazing land. The Ironside Farrar study of 2008 concludes that, “in order to avoid the risk of turbines adversely affecting perceived scale, it is considered that there is scope for turbines less than circa 80m tall located on lower ground only, where they do not adversely affect the setting of landscape features and monuments such as Airlie Monument and the White and Brown Caterthuns”. The development at Lower Cairny has used this guidance as well as that provided by SNH in designing and assessing the impact of a layout that complies with these considerations. More detail on this is included within the Landscape and Visual Impact Chapter 4 and it is the applicant’s contention that the development complies with this guidance and the Policy S1.

Policy S5 : Safeguard Areas

Planning permission for development within the consultation zones of notifiable installations, pipelines or hazards will only be granted where the proposal accords with the strategy and policies of this Local Plan and there is no objection by the Health & Safety Executive, Civil Aviation Authority or other relevant statutory agency.

Commentary

This policy is met because as a working farm that is regularly cultivated, there are no nearby cables, pipelines or hazards on or near the site that are unknown to the Applicant. Aberdeen Airport has said that the site is outwith its area of concern. It is assumed that this also applies for Dundee Airport. The applicant assumes that the Local Authority will consult with the relevant statutory consultees on this aspect to confirm this.

Policy S6 : Development Principles

Proposals for development should where appropriate have regard to the relevant principles set out in Schedule 1 which includes reference to amenity considerations; roads and parking; landscaping, open space and biodiversity; drainage and flood risk, and supporting information.

Commentary

This policy has been addressed within the assessments made by the applicant in terms of residential amenity; roads and parking; landscape impact; ecology, flooding and protection of surface and groundwater resources; cultural heritage and archaeology. The applicant considers that the results of these assessments are such that Policy S6 is met.

Schedule 1 : Development Principles

Amenity

- (a) The amenity of proposed and existing properties should not be affected by unreasonable restriction of sunlight, daylight or privacy; by smells or fumes; noise levels and vibration; emissions including smoke, soot, ash, dust, grit, or any other environmental pollution; or disturbance by vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- (b) Proposals should not result in unacceptable visual impact.
- (c) Proposals close to working farms should not interfere with farming operations, and will be expected to accept the nature of the existing local environment. New houses should not be sited within 400m of an existing or proposed intensive livestock building. (Policy ER30).

Commentary

The Environment and Planning Report comments on aspects such as residential amenity, noise and shadow flicker. It is considered that the careful siting of the machines as described in the Landscape and

Visual Impact chapter and the benefit of the topography and tree belts in the area means that there will be no significant impact on residential amenity. In terms of noise, a detailed assessment has been carried out. The methodology was agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. The results show that the development complies with noise limits as all the properties that could be affected are within the ownership of the Applicant. However, the EHO still have some concern regarding one property, Tillydovie Cottage (owned by the Applicant). The Applicant has now developed mitigation measures that respond to the Council's concerns. It is possible to reduce the noise levels of the candidate Enercon E48 turbine by reducing the rotational speed of the blades, with a resultant reduction in the amount of electrical energy produced. This will be done for wind direction when the property is downwind of the wind turbine, and for the wind speed range over which there is a predicted exceedance of the noise limit. More detail on this aspect is included within the Noise chapter.

Roads/Parking/Access

(d) Access arrangements, road layouts and parking should be in accordance with Angus Council's Roads Standards, and use innovative solutions where possible, including 'Home Zones'. Provision for cycle parking/storage for flatted development will also be required.

(e) Access to housing in rural areas should not go through a farm court.

(f) Where access is proposed by unmade/private track it will be required to be made-up to standards set out in Angus Council Advice Note 17 : Miscellaneous Planning Policies. If the track exceeds 200m in length, conditions may be imposed regarding widening or the provision of passing places where necessary.

(g) Development should not result in the loss of public access rights. (Policy SC33)

Commentary

A Transport Assessment has been carried out which covers transport routes and construction traffic and the potential impacts from these. The Transport Assessment concludes that the construction of a Wind Cluster at Lower Cairny, Glen Lethnot, Angus can be accommodated without significant impacts on the identified approach road network during the construction or de-commissioning phases.

Landscaping / Open Space / Biodiversity

(h) Development proposals should have regard to the Landscape Character of the local area as set out in the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (SNH 1998). (Policy ER5)

- (i) Appropriate landscaping and boundary treatment should be an integral element in the design and layout of proposals and should include the retention and enhancement of existing physical features (e.g. hedgerows, walls, trees etc) and link to the existing green space network of the local area.
- (j) Development should maintain or enhance habitats of importance set out in the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and should not involve loss of trees or other important landscape features or valuable habitats and species.
- (k) The planting of native hedgerows and tree species is encouraged.
- (l) Open space provision in developments and the maintenance of it should be in accordance with Policy SC29.

Commentary

The proposal has taken account of landscape and biodiversity impacts and this is detailed within the relevant chapters of this report.

Drainage and Flood Risk

- (m) Development sites located within areas served by public sewerage systems should be connected to that system. (Policy ER21)
- (n) Surface water will not be permitted to drain to the public sewer. An appropriate system of disposal will be necessary which meets the requirements of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Angus Council and should have regard to good practice advice set out in the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Design Manual for Scotland and Northern Ireland 2000.
- (o) Proposals will be required to consider the potential flood risk at the location. (Policy ER28)
- (p) Outwith areas served by public sewerage systems, where a septic tank, bio-disc or similar system is proposed to treat foul effluent and /or drainage is to a controlled water or soakaway, the consent of SEPA and Angus Council will be required. (Policy ER22).
- (q) Proposals should incorporate appropriate waste recycling, segregation and collection facilities (Policy ER37)
- (r) Development should minimise waste by design and during construction.

Commentary

The site is not within a flood risk location and there is no risk of flooding from the proposal.

Supporting Information

(s) Where appropriate, planning applications should be accompanied by the necessary supporting information. Early discussion with Planning and Transport is advised to determine the level of supporting information which will be required and depending on the proposal this might include any of the following: Air Quality Assessment; Archaeological Assessment; Contaminated Land Assessment; Design Statement; Drainage Impact Assessment; Environmental Statement; Flood Risk Assessment; Landscape Assessment and/or Landscaping Scheme; Noise Impact Assessment; Retail Impact Assessment; Transport Assessment.

Commentary

This Environment and Planning Report contains details of the supporting information needed to inform the Local Authority of the necessary detail of potential environmental impacts. It is considered that the supporting information shows that the proposals comply with all relevant planning policies.

Policy ER4 : Wider Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

The Council will not normally grant planning permission for development that would have a significant adverse impact on species or habitats protected under British or European Law, identified as a priority in UK or Local Biodiversity Action Plans or on other valuable habitats or species.

Development proposals that affect such species or habitats will be required to include evidence that an assessment of nature conservation interest has been taken into account. Where development is permitted, the retention and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity will be secured through appropriate planning conditions or the use of Section 75 Agreements as necessary.

Commentary

The proposed wind cluster has been assessed in terms of natural heritage designations in Chapter 5 Ecology. Detailed ecological surveys and associated assessments have been carried out in and around the development site. An extended Phase 1 Habitat Assessment and protected species survey have been carried out to establish if the site of the proposed wind cluster has any value for protected species or ecological habitats. The results of these indicate that there are no issues and therefore this policy is met.

The site of the proposed wind cluster is not protected by any international, national, regional or local nature conservation designations. The nearest SSSI is the 'Paleochannels' of the North Esk and West Water to the south east of the site. There is no direct or indirect impact of the development on this SSSI.

Mitigation measures for runoff have been established and these are explained in detail in the hydrology section at Chapter 6 and Appendix 6.

Policy ER5 : Conservation of Landscape Character

Development proposals should take account of the guidance provided by the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment and where appropriate will be considered against the following criteria:

- (a) sites selected should be capable of absorbing the proposed development to ensure that it fits into the landscape;
- (b) where required, landscape mitigation measures should be in character with, or enhance, the existing landscape setting;
- (c) new buildings/structures should respect the pattern, scale, siting, form, design, colour and density of existing development;

Priority should be given to locating new development in towns, villages or building groups in preference to isolated development.

Commentary

A thorough process of Landscape Capacity, Design Layout and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been applied to this development. The results of which are detailed within Chapter 4 and Appendix 4. On the basis of this, the applicant believes that this policy commitment has been fully achieved using careful layout and design and scale of turbine.

Environmental Resources Policy 5A: Historic Environment

Local Plans will establish a policy framework to safeguard and enhance important features of the area's historic environment as a means of conserving the diverse and distinctive qualities of Dundee and Angus. The historic environment of Dundee and Angus is a valuable, non-renewable resource which must be protected, conserved and enhanced. Local Plans shall identify these assets and include policies which:-

- Protect the site and setting of listed buildings and ancient scheduled monuments;
- Protect other archaeological sites and sensitive areas. Where this is not feasible, proper recording and analysis shall take place;
- Protect and enhance conservation areas and historic gardens and designed landscapes.

Commentary

The Cultural Heritage Section at Chapter 7 details the specific assessment of this element. In summary, the development has been designed so as to minimise any potential impact on cultural heritage and in particular that of Edzell Castle, the village of Edzell, the Burn, Brown and White Caterthuns. This has been achieved by careful siting and using an appropriate scale of turbine technology. The development is therefore in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Resources Policy.

Environmental Resources Policy 10: Renewable Energy

Proposals for renewable energy development will be favourably considered where they deliver quantifiable environmental and economic benefits and any significant or cumulative adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment, landscape and local communities can be satisfactorily addressed.

Development proposals will be considered in the context of the wider environmental policies of the Structure Plan. Detailed criteria based policy, locational guidance and, where appropriate, areas of search for individual sources of renewable energy will be established by Local Plans. An Environmental Statement will be required for all large scale proposals or where development is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Commentary

The development is aligned with the Agri -Renewables Strategy announced by the Environment Minister Richard Lohead in August 2011 that will, 'ensure that land managers can benefit from the renewables revolution and unlock the green energy potential of their land'. The development will enable the farm enterprise to generate local income to secure its future and those involved in the supply chain activities associated with the farm unit. This includes direct and indirect labour and contracting companies. The turbines will also generate a significant quantity of renewable electricity every year during the turbines' 25 year life and this will mean a real reduction of 2,300 tonnes of carbon per annum which will contribute to Scottish Government and Local Authority climate change targets. The development has taken into account Angus Council and Government guidance in relation to the locational setting of the development and this element is covered in the detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment at Chapter 4. In summary, the development meets the requirements of Environmental Resources Policy 10: Renewable Energy.

Policy ER11 : Noise Pollution

Development which adversely affects health, the natural or built environment or general amenity as a result of an unacceptable increase in noise levels will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need which cannot be accommodated elsewhere.

Proposals for development generating unacceptable noise levels will not generally be permitted adjacent to existing or proposed noise-sensitive land uses. Proposals for new noise-sensitive development which would be subject to unacceptable levels of noise from an existing noise source or from a proposed use will not be permitted.

Commentary

A detailed Noise Impact Assessment has been carried out in consultation with the Environmental Health Officer for Angus Council. The results show that the development does not cause any detrimental noise impact on the properties close to the site, the majority of which are owned or occupied by the Applicant. The EHO dealing with the original application raised some concerns regarding a potential noise level exceedance at Tillydovie Cottage. The Applicant has developed mitigation measures that respond to the Council's Environmental Health Officer's concerns. It is possible to reduce the noise levels of the candidate Enercon E48 turbine by reducing the rotational speed of the blades. This will be done for the wind direction when the property is downwind of the wind turbine, and for the wind speed range over which there is a predicted exceedance of the noise limit.

Policy ER18 : Archaeological Sites of National Importance

Priority will be given to preserving Scheduled Ancient Monuments in situ. Developments affecting Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally significant archaeological sites and historic landscapes and their settings will only be permitted where it can be adequately demonstrated that either:

- a) the proposed development will not result in damage to the scheduled monument or site of national archaeological interest or the integrity of its setting; or
- b) there is overriding and proven public interest to be gained from the proposed development that outweighs the national significance attached to the preservation of the monument or archaeological importance of the site. In the case of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the development must be in the national interest in order to outweigh the national importance attached to their preservation; an

- c) the need for the development cannot reasonably be met in other less archaeologically damaging locations or by reasonable alternative means; and
- d) the proposal has been sited and designed to minimise damage to the archaeological remains.

Where development is considered acceptable and preservation of the site in its original location is not possible, the excavation and recording of the site will be required in advance of development, at the developer's expense.

Commentary

A detailed cultural heritage assessment has been carried out. There is no detrimental impact and this policy has been met.

Policy ER19 : Archaeological Sites of Local Importance

Where development proposals affect unscheduled sites of known or suspected archaeological interest, Angus Council will require the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological evaluation to determine the importance of the site, its sensitivity to development and the most appropriate means for preserving or recording any archaeological information. The evaluation will be taken into account when determining whether planning permission should be granted with or without conditions or refused.

Commentary

This policy commitment has been met on the basis of there being no potential impact on archaeological aspects.

Policy ER34 : Renewable Energy Developments

Proposals for all forms of renewable energy developments will be supported in principle and will be assessed against the following criteria:

- (a) the siting and appearance of apparatus have been chosen to minimise the impact on amenity, while respecting operational efficiency;
- (b) there will be no unacceptable adverse landscape and visual impacts having regard to landscape character, setting within the immediate and wider landscape, and sensitive viewpoints;
- (c) the development will have no unacceptable detrimental effect on any sites designated for natural

- heritage, scientific, historic or archaeological reasons;
- (d) no unacceptable environmental effects of transmission lines, within and beyond the site; and
- (e) access for construction and maintenance traffic can be achieved without compromising road safety or causing unacceptable permanent change to the environment and landscape, and
- (f) that there will be no unacceptable impacts on the quantity or quality of groundwater or surface water resources during construction, operation and decommissioning of the energy plant.

Commentary

As described above, the development has been designed to meet the terms of the relevant policies described above. The detailed assessment of each of the criteria within Policies ER34 and ER35 are described within the rest of this report. Existing land uses on the site will be unaffected by the development. The Applicant has considered the Angus Council Renewable Energy Implementation Guide in designing the layout and size and scale of the proposal. The detail of this is described in Chapter 4 and Appendix 4 (Landscape Design Statement, Visualisations and Visual Impact Methodology). It is the Applicant's belief that this development complies with the guidance in the Implementation Guide. Overall, it is the applicant's opinion that this development complies with policy ER34.

Policy ER35 : Wind Energy Development

Wind energy developments must meet the requirements of Policy ER33 and also demonstrate:

- (a) the reasons for site selection;
- (b) that no wind turbines will cause unacceptable interference to birds, especially those that have statutory protection and are susceptible to disturbance, displacement or collision;
- (c) there is no unacceptable detrimental effect on residential amenity, existing land uses or road safety by reason of shadow flicker, noise or reflected light;
- (d) that no wind turbines will interfere with authorised aircraft activity;
- (e) that no electromagnetic disturbance is likely to be caused by the proposal to any existing transmitting or receiving system, or (where such disturbances may be caused) that measures will be taken to minimise or remedy any such interference;
- (f) that the proposal must be capable of co-existing with other existing or permitted wind energy developments in terms of cumulative impact particularly on visual amenity and landscape, including impacts from development in neighbouring local authority areas;
- (g) a realistic means of achieving the removal of any apparatus when redundant and the restoration

of the site are proposed.

Commentary

As described above, the development has been designed to meet the terms of the relevant policies described above. Existing land uses on the site will be unaffected by the development. The Applicant has considered the Angus Council Renewable Energy Implementation Guide in designing the layout and size and scale of the proposal. The detail of this is described in Chapter 4 and Appendix 4 (Landscape Design Statement, Visualisations and Visual Impact Methodology). It is the Applicant's belief that this development complies with the guidance in the Implementation Guide. Overall, it is the applicant's opinion that this development complies with policy ER35.

4 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter outlines the findings of the assessment of the proposed Lower Cairny Wind Cluster on the 'landscape resource' and on 'visual amenity'. This assessment has been undertaken by Horner + MacLennan Landscape Architects (h+m).

4.1.2 Landscape and visual impact assessments (LVIA) are separate, although linked, processes, as stated within 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2002). Assessments of effects on the landscape resource and visual amenity were carried out in parallel.

Sources of Information

4.1.3 The following principal sources of information were used for undertaking this assessment:

- Tayside Landscape Character Assessment, Land Use Consultants, SNH Report No 122, 1999
- Implementation Guide for Renewal Energy projects, Angus Council January 2012
- Angus Windfarms, Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impacts Study, Ironside Farrar, September 2008
- Review of Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus – Ironside Farrar, Final Report, March 2014
- Angus Council Renewables Database, February 2014
- Aberdeenshire Council Renewables Database, February 2014
- Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland, Volume 3 Grampian and Volume 4 Tayside, Central and Fife; Countryside Commission for Scotland, 1987
- Historic Scotland website.

This Chapter also includes a review of the Review of Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus – Ironside Farrar, Final Report, March 2014.

Preliminary Landscape Capacity Study

4.1.4 A preliminary Landscape Capacity Study of the proposed site and its surroundings was undertaken to establish if the site was considered appropriate in landscape and visual terms for a wind farm development, and if so, to advise on the most appropriate scale of development and design approach to be adopted.

4.1.5 Whilst the capacity study concluded that the site and its surroundings had certain landscape and visual sensitivities to wind farm development, these were not considered to be of such a magnitude that they would preclude a wind farm development entirely. The study also concluded that the landscape capacity of the site was dependent on the adoption of a specific siting, layout and design strategy for the site relating to turbine numbers, heights and locations, and made recommendations on an appropriate siting and design strategy which would be required to be adopted to ensure that any potential adverse impacts were avoided or minimised.

4.1.6 The Landscape Capacity Study recognised that the role of design, in as much as it determines the visual appearance of a wind farm within the landscape and how it relates to particular characteristics and features of the landscape, is considered fundamental to the principle of capacity – how a wind farm looks within and relates to the landscape is equally, if not, more important than whether it can be seen. This approach is consistent with the guidance contained within SNH’s document ‘Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape’ 2009, which reinforces the role and importance of design in the strategic siting and detailed design of wind farm developments. In relation to the Lower Cairny Wind Cluster, this design-led approach has been fundamental to ensuring that the proposal achieves the best overall ‘fit’ with its landscape context, and minimised landscape and visual impacts as much as practical.

4.1.7 Appendix 4 – Design Statement and Visualisations provides a comprehensive description of the landscape capacity work and the associated design development process for the project.

Consultations

4.1.8 A Pre-Application Request report was submitted to Angus Council in November 2011, outlining the wind cluster proposal and incorporating the landscape capacity, design development and cultural heritage work undertaken at that time. A subsequent consultation meeting with Angus Council Planning officers was held on 9 February 2012, to review the pre-application report and discuss in more detail the

scope of environmental assessment work which would be required in support of an application for the wind cluster development. Further correspondence was undertaken with Angus Council on the selection and finalisation of viewpoints for detailed visual impact assessment.

4.1.9 Detailed consultations were undertaken with Historic Scotland as part of the landscape capacity and design development work, in relation to the appearance and layout of the proposed wind cluster in views from the Brown and White Caterthuns, and to gain a better understanding of issues relating to the setting and context of these Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Study Area

4.1.10 The Study Area, on which the LVIA focuses and as shown on Figure 4.1, extends to a radius of 25km beyond a radius which contains the full extent of the turbine layout of the proposed wind cluster. This radius has been chosen in accordance with the advice contained within Table 2 of the 'Visual Representation of Windfarms Good Practice Guidelines', in order to include all areas from within which potential significant visual effects (as defined by EIA Regulations) are most likely to occur for a turbine height to blade tip of 74m.

Site Visits

4.1.11 A Chartered Landscape Architect made various site visits during 2011/2012, during clear weather conditions, in order to survey the existing landscape, to assess the local and wider landscape character and to assist in the confirmation of the boundaries of particular landscape character types/areas. These visits were used to inform a general appreciation of the landscape and visual characteristics of the area, which was used to prepare the initial landscape capacity study of the site and its surroundings, as well as forming the basis for the landscape impact assessment.

4.1.12 These visits also considered the existing visual character of the Study Area, and were used to inform the selection of viewpoints for visual assessment. Subsequently the selected viewpoints were visited again for visual assessment and site photography purposes. Various roads were driven to gain an understanding of the landscape and visual character of the area, and to undertake the sequential visual assessments. A series of photographs were taken of the site and its surroundings.

Assessment Process, Criteria and Definitions

4.1.13 The aim of this assessment is to identify, predict and evaluate potential key impacts on the landscape resource and visual amenity of the Study Area and the resulting overall significance of these effects arising from the introduction of the proposed development, in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

4.1.14 In order to provide a level of consistency to the assessment, these assessments have been based on pre-defined methodologies, assessment criteria and their associated definitions. These are described in detail in Appendix 5.

4.1.15 It should be noted that within this LVIA, 'moderate' and 'substantial' impacts are considered to constitute 'significant' impacts in relation to the EIA Regulations. Additionally, it is normal practice to consider wind farm developments, which are commonly proposed for operation for a 25 year period, as temporary but long term developments. Consequently all impacts are considered to be of a temporary nature.

4.2 The Proposed Development

4.2.1 The site of the Lower Cairny Wind Cluster is shown on Figure 4.2. The proposal comprises of 2no 74m high wind turbines to blade tip. In terms of SNH's classification of wind farm developments, the proposal is classified as a 'small' development, comprising a development of 3 or fewer turbines of more than 50m in height.

4.3 Structure of Assessment

4.3.1 The assessment will adopt a structured approach to considering the likely landscape and visual impacts on a range of landscape and visual issues. For specific issues, baseline conditions and assessments of impact will be considered together, rather than be included within separate baseline and assessment sections. The basic structure of this LVIA will comprise:

- Comments on proposal in relation to landscape and visual issues within Angus Council Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy projects
- Assessment of Effect on the Landscape Resource
 - Baseline Landscape Character

- Analysis of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility Mapping
- Effect on Landscape Character
- Effect on Designated Landscapes
- Assessment of Effect on Visual Amenity
 - Influences on General Visibility
 - Visual Characteristics of the Proposed Wind Cluster
 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility Mapping
 - Selection of Viewpoints
 - Assessment of Effect on Visual Amenity at Selected Viewpoints
 - Visual Impact on Settlements
 - Visual Impact on Individual Local Properties
 - Sequential Visual Assessment
- Scope for and Mitigation Measures
- Assessment of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact
- Conclusion

4.4 Angus Council 'Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Projects' (IGREP)

4.4.1 This recently published document provides strategic guidance in relation to a range of issues associated with developing renewable energy projects within Angus, and includes various issues of relevance to this LVIA.

4.4.2 Prior to undertaking the detailed landscape and visual impact assessment of the proposed wind cluster, consideration is given to the proposal in relation to relevant landscape and visual aspects of the Implementation Guide, in order to set the proposal within a broader strategic planning context.

4.4.3 'Table 4: Levels of Acceptable Landscape Character Change' of the Implementation Guide document indicates, for each landscape character type and unit within Angus, the 'existing windfarm character' and the 'acceptable future windfarm character', along with associated guidance specific to

each character type/unit. The existing windfarm character for the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ in which the proposed wind cluster is located, is described as ‘*Landscape with Views of Windfarms*’, whilst the acceptable future windfarm character is described as ‘*Landscape with Occasional Windfarms*’. The associated guidance for the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ states:

The Highland Foothills provide a dramatic transition between highland and lowland. The contrast between the rolling topography of Strathmore (LT 10) and the foothills is important in defining the character of both LT 10 & 5. Whilst the Foothills appear big next to Strathmore, they are relatively low lying hills. In order to avoid the risk of turbines adversely affecting perceived scale, it is considered that there is scope for turbines less than circa 80m tall located on lower ground only, where they do not adversely affect the setting of landscape features and monuments such as Airlie Monument and the White & Brown Caterthuns.

4.4.4 In relation to these descriptions and guidance, the following comments can be made in relation to the wind cluster proposal:

- The proposal is a small-scale wind energy development which would be compatible with the acceptable future windfarm character for the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ of ‘*Landscape with Occasional Windfarms*’
- The turbine height to blade tip proposed is 74m, below the 80m maximum height advised, and specifically chosen to create an appropriate scale relationship with the smaller scale foothills which typify the site and its surroundings
- The proposed turbines would be located around the 170m contour level, to relate their position more closely to the improved agricultural landscape pattern of the lower ground and to ensure that the turbines were set well below the skyline profile of the higher moorland hills to their north, such that these higher hills rather than the turbines form the dominant visual element in views towards the hills
- Airlie Monument is located at the boundary of the 20km study area for the proposed wind cluster, and the ZTV indicates that the proposed wind cluster would have no theoretical visibility for a considerable distance around the monument. Consequently, it is considered that the proposal would not adversely affect the setting of the monument
- The proposed turbines would be visible from the summits of the Caterthuns, with Brown Caterthun being one of the key viewpoints used in establishing the detailed design layout of the

wind cluster, in terms of achieving a balance of visual composition of the turbines and in relating their layout and position to clearly defined land use patterns within this view, in order to minimise the level of visual impact – refer to Viewpoints 6 and 7 for a detailed visual impact assessment from the Caterthuns

- Views towards the Caterthuns from the south, where they are seen within a landscape setting against the backdrop of the higher hills to the north, would be unaffected, as the Caterthuns themselves act as visual screen to the turbines which are located on lower ground to the north below the level of the Caterthun ridgeline, and consequently the setting of the Caterthuns from the south would be unaffected
- The primary views from the Caterthuns, and particularly Brown Caterthun are looking away from the proposed turbines, to the east and south, over the lowland agricultural landscape towards the coast and Montrose Basin, and the proposed turbines would not appear within these views. This aspect of the wider setting of the Caterthuns would therefore be unaffected
- Views from the Caterthuns towards other hillforts such as Finavon and Turin Hill would be in directions away from the proposed turbines, which would not appear within these views, and therefore these views and the connections between these hillforts would be unaffected
- The turbines would be visible from the summit of Hill of Finavon, at a distance of c21km, where the turbines would form a very small part of the expansive panoramic view available, and where only a very small section of one turbine blade tip would be visible, and any visual impact would be negligible. Refer to Viewpoint 11 for a detailed visual impact assessment from Hill of Finavon
- The local setting of the Caterthuns can be characterised by open views, however, the Hill of Lundie to the east and the West Water Valley to the north form natural barriers which are important topographically in determining the extent of the local setting of the hills. A large-scale overhead transmission line which traverses the West Water Valley also acts in influencing the extent of the local setting of the Caterthuns. The proposed turbines lie beyond the West Water Valley, on the lower hillslope to north and outwith the local setting of the Caterthuns, although visible from areas within the local setting
- The wider scale setting of the Caterthuns links them to the higher hills to the north which act as a backdrop to the general Menmuir Ridgeline. By limiting the proposed turbines to two, which limits their lateral spread and allows a simple visual composition to be achieved, by locating the proposed turbines on the lower slopes of the higher hills to the north, and by adopting a 74m turbine height, the turbines are positioned well below and away from the skyline profiles of the

higher hills, such that the skyline would not be interrupted except in extremely close positions directly below the turbine locations, and consequently the wider scale setting of the Caterthuns to the north would be largely unaffected.

4.4.5 Given the above considerations, it is considered that the proposed wind cluster would be compatible with the guidance advice provided for the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ landscape type.

4.5 Assessment of Effect on the Landscape Resource

Baseline Landscape Character

Landscape Context

4.5.1 The local authority area of Angus is located in eastern Scotland, between the Firth of Tay and Dundee to the south and the Grampian Mountains in the north. The landscape of Angus represents a transition from coastal landscapes in the south- east, progressing north-westwards through agricultural lowlands and lowland hills, to highland landscapes in the north-west. The bulk of the population lives in small towns and villages in the lowland area, through which the main transport routes pass.

4.5.2 The landscape of Angus and of the more extensive Tayside area is described in detail in the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment SNH, 1999 (TLCA), undertaken by Land Use Consultants as part of a series of assessments for Scotland prepared on behalf of SNH and the local authorities. It develops a landscape classification which identifies and describes a range of detailed landscape character types/areas throughout Angus and the wider Tayside area. It also provides guidance on accommodating development and land use change. Whilst some of this guidance has been superseded, the definition of the landscape character types/areas remains valid, being consistently used as the basis for the Angus Council Local Plan and in the preparation of associated guidance on wind energy development within Angus. The classification and geographic distribution of landscape character areas within the TLCA and the associated Angus Council documents has therefore been used as the basis for this assessment.

4.5.3 Angus can be divided in three main regional landscape areas:

- **Area 1 Highland** - primarily the Angus Glens along and to the north of the Highland Boundary Fault;
- **Area 2 Lowland and Hills** - mainly rolling farmland and low hills;
- **Area 3 Coast** - a mix of sand, cliffs and, around Montrose, lowland basin.

4.5.4 The Angus Local Plan Review identifies Areas 1 Highland and 3 Coast as having a greater potential sensitivity to the landscape and visual impact of large turbines. This principle is further developed in the *'Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impacts Study'* undertaken by Ironside Farrar on behalf of Angus Council in 2008. This study primarily considered landscape capacity and cumulative impact in Angus at a strategic level, and for each of the TLCA character areas, it identified the 'Landscape Capacity for Windfarms' and 'Current Windfarm Character Type' throughout Angus, and which has subsequently being incorporated into Angus Council's *'Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Proposals'*, January 2012.

4.5.5 The Highland and Lowland and Hills areas cover most of Angus. The dividing line between the two is the Highland Boundary Fault between Lintrathen in the west and Edzell to the east. To the north of the Highland Boundary Fault lie the extensive rolling uplands and mountains of the Mounth Highlands and the Angus Glens. To the south of the Boundary Fault lie the Tayside Lowlands.

4.5.6 The proposed site at Lower Cairny occupies an area wholly located within the *Highland* region, although located towards its south-eastern boundary close to the *Lowland and Hills* region. The *Highland* region comprises of 4 separate landscape types, each of which are further divided into more detailed sub-units.

4.5.7 The site of the proposed wind cluster is located within in the *'Highland Foothills'* landscape type, and specifically within the *'Edzell Foothills'* sub-unit, in the upper section of the sub-unit close to its junction with the *'Muckle Cairn/Hill of Glansie/Hill of Wirren'* sub-unit of the *'Highland Summits and Plateaux'* landscape type to the north. The *'West Water Valley'* sub-unit of the *'Mid Highland Glens'* landscape type lies immediately south of the proposal site. This detailed location places the site at a complex transitional area of 3 landscape types, and where these types are also merging at a broader scale between the lowland agricultural landscape to the immediate south and the upland landscape to the north.

4.5.8 In terms of SNH's Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Wind Farms, much of Angus is categorised as Zone 1 – Lowest Natural Heritage Sensitivity, which includes the southern part of the *Highland* landscape region. The proposed site is located within a hatched area of Zones 1 and 2

sensitivity, although it is noted that this sensitivity relates to sensitive bird issues, and not landscape and visual considerations.

Landscape Character (Figure 4.3)

Regional Types

Highland Region

4.5.9 The *Highland* region comprises of a large-scale upland plateau dissected by deep intervening glens and edged to its southern boundary by a transitional range of foothills along the Highland Boundary Fault, forming the junction with the adjacent lowlands. In overall terms, the *Highland* region forms the important and highly visible backdrop to the settled lowland areas of Angus, as well as being an important recreational resource of high scenic quality, with remote and wilderness qualities within its northern section. Part of the *Highland* region is a designated National Park. The region is divided into the following landscape types.

4.5.10 The *Highland Summits and Plateaux* forms the most extensive *Highland* landscape character type, separating the glens and merging into broader and higher mountain areas to the north of Angus. The northern parts of the area fall within the Cairngorms National Park, although this designation does not extend into the lower hills northeast of Glen Esk.

4.5.11 The *Upper* and *Mid Highland Glens* run from southeast to northwest, dividing the *Highland Summits and Plateaux* into a series of broad, rolling ridges. The *Mid Highland Glens* are shallower and more settled with some agriculture on the flat valley floor, whereas the *Upper Highland Glens* are narrower, deeper and less settled or cultivated.

4.5.12 The transitional *Highland Foothills* landscape character type comprises areas of smaller scale complex topography and mixed arable and hill farming, separated by the mouths of the Angus Glens, and merging into the broad lowland agricultural landscape of Strathmore to the south of the Highland Boundary Fault.

4.5.13 Similar upland characteristics extend north-eastwards into Aberdeenshire with the '*Moorland Plateaux*' landscape type.

Lowland and Hills Region

4.5.14 This lowland landscape is dominated by arable agriculture and is generally settled with towns, villages and networks of roads. Fields are medium to large in size with intermittent hedges and trees. There are areas of shelterbelts and small plantation woodlands. Three of the main settlements in Angus (Kirriemuir, Forfar and Brechin) and the main transport artery (the A90) lie in the *Broad Valley Lowlands*, which cover much of central lowland Angus through Strathmore. The *Dipslope Farmland* is on higher undulating ground with smaller settlements and more open aspects.

4.5.15 These two main lowland areas are separated by ranges of lowland hills: To the west, the *Igneous Hills* of the Sidlaws divide the *Dipslope Farmland* and Dundee from Strathmore, this pattern extending west into Perth & Kinross. To the east, the smaller scale *Low Moorland Hills* around Forfar separate the *Dipslope Farmland* from the *Broad Valley Lowlands*. This lowland agricultural landscape extends north-eastwards into the *Agricultural Heartlands* of Aberdeenshire

Landscape Types

Highland Foothills

4.5.16 The Lower Cairny site is located within the *Highland Foothills* landscape type. The *Highland Foothills* are a distinctive and key transitional landscape located on the boundary between lowland Strathmore to the south and the upland hills and glens to the north. Within Angus, they are divided into three main sub units - *Kirriemuir Foothills*, *Menmuir Foothills* and *Edzell Foothills* - located in close proximity to each other but physically separated by the mouths of the Angus Glens. They comprise a varied and complex, small to medium scale landscape with an irregular but often steep topography of small hills and glens. In some locations, a high voltage electricity transmission line intrudes on the otherwise scenic landscape composition.

4.5.17 The site is specifically located within the '*Edzell Foothills*' unit, close to its intersection with one of the large areas of '*Highland Summits and Plateaux*' to the north and the '*West Water Glen*', which forms part of the '*Mid Highland Glens*' landscape type to the south.

4.5.18 Given the modest scale and complexity of this landscape type, together with a relative lack of development or infrastructure, it is considered to be of medium to high landscape character sensitivity. Visual sensitivity is varied, with a significant degree of screening and enclosure afforded by the landforms

of the character type and by the uplands to the north but a highly visible position when seen from the lowlands, settlements and transport routes to the south. Overall, it is considered that the landscape type has medium to high landscape sensitivity to the introduction of a proposed wind farm.

Highland Summits and Plateaux

4.5.19 The *Highland Summits and Plateaux* type lies to the immediate north of the Lower Cairny site, forming an extensive upland area north of the Highland Boundary Fault in Angus, rising to over 1000m AOD in places and divided by the deeply incised Angus Glens. These extensive areas of undulating, rolling uplands form the divisions between the principle glens of the area, comprising rounded smooth slopes with a series of spurs extending southwards which merge with the '*Highland Foothills*' type to the south.

4.5.20 These elevated areas are actively managed as open moorland of heather and grasslands for deer, grouse and sheep, and have little or no settlements, which gives them a remote and undeveloped character. From the upper areas, there are generally expansive views to the lowlands to the east and south across the simple and large-scale landscape, and the area forms the highly visible backdrop to lowland Angus.

4.5.21 The four sub-units within Angus include, from west to east, part of *Forest of Alyth; Caenlochan Forest/ Glendoll Forest; Muckle Cairn/ Hill of Glansie/ Hill of Wirren* and *Hills of Saughs/ Mount Battock*. The '*Muckle Cairn/Hill of Glansie/Hill of Wirren*' sub-unit of the '*Highland Summits and Plateaux*' landscape type lies to the immediate north of the proposal site.

4.5.22 The landforms and landcover patterns are large scale and simple, resulting in a low to medium landscape character sensitivity. The Mounth is a very open landscape and highly visible from the lowlands to the south and further mountains to the north, such that the visual sensitivity would be medium to high. Overall, it is considered that the landscape type has medium landscape sensitivity to the introduction of a proposed wind farm.

Mid Highland Glens

4.5.23 These middle sections of the *Highland Glens* are typified by the concentration of agricultural activity on the narrow valley floor, and by the predominance of rough grazing, bracken and heather moorland on the valley sides. In some areas, coniferous plantations are locally characteristic. The greater

diversity of land-use and landscape character distinguishes them from the upper and lower sections of the Highland Glens and the other surrounding landscape types. These relatively small-scale landscapes contain a scattering of agricultural farms and cottages, commonly associated with small woods and tree groups. The *West Water Valley* sub-unit lies to the immediate south of the proposal site.

4.5.24 The medium scale, landscape diversity and relatively undeveloped character of the *Mid Highland Glens* results in medium-high landscape character sensitivity. Due to their enclosed, short range or narrow views, visual sensitivity would be medium to high. Overall, it is considered that the landscape type has medium-high landscape sensitivity to the introduction of a proposed wind farm.

Broad Valley Lowlands

4.5.25 This landscape type is one of the key lowland features of Angus, not only as a broad valley and agricultural heartland but also as a population centre and communications corridor. It is also much emphasised by the Highland Boundary Fault and the backdrop of the Angus Glens and Mounth Highlands to the north, providing a foreground to that dramatic landscape. The type is divided into two connected areas: Strathmore in the west and the Lower South & North Esk River Valley in the east.

4.5.26 The landscape is generally of a medium scale, although some extensive views, particularly to the hills to the north, give it a larger feeling. The landform is predominantly gentle and undulating, and often flat on the valley floor. The predominant land use is agricultural with large rectilinear fields and it is a rich and settled landscape with numerous farms, dwellings and settlements together with some small towns. There is a strong landscape structure of tree belts and small woods which reinforce the field pattern.

4.5.27 The extent of tree cover and medium scale landform pattern results in medium landscape sensitivity. The visual sensitivity is medium as, although the A90 passes through this area and the towns of Brechin and Forfar are located within it, the considerable tree cover tends to restricts views. Overall, it is considered that the landscape type has medium landscape sensitivity to the introduction of a proposed wind farm.

Landscape Character of the Proposal Site

4.5.28 The site is located on a south-easterly hillslope of the Mounth Highlands rising above the valley of the West Water, and extending to the hill summit of Black Hill. The site encompasses a landscape

transition from improved pasture in the lower areas, rising through unimproved pasture to open moorland and grassland on the upper slopes. This landscape transition is reflected along much of the hill slope edge which flanks the Howe of the Mearns, and is a recognisable landscape pattern in longer distance views to these hill slopes from the south and east, predominantly due to the changing colours which rise up the hillsides associated with improved pasture, unimproved pasture and moorland transition. The landscape pattern is regular and ordered within the areas of the lower lying improved pastures, where rectilinear field patterns occasionally defined by geometric coniferous tree belts create a simple, organised layout.

4.5.29 The coniferous tree belts form a series of separate, distinctive geometric shapes across the lower hillsides, which act as individual features along the improved lower slope areas rather than forming an interconnected broader scale pattern, except when seen from greater distances where they tend to visually merge into a more continuous tree cover pattern. The site is located at the junction between the lower lying arable land and the improved grassland, which gives way to the unimproved pastures further up the hill slopes, and which lead to the diverse moorland and grassland mosaic of the upper slopes. Consequently, the site is located at the interface between the humanised lowland agricultural landscape of the Howe of the Mearns with the more natural yet managed upland moorland landscape to the north. At a local level, this interface can appear a complex landscape with views to both highland and lowland landscapes. Whilst the site acts as a landscape continuum between lowland and upland, it is located neither fully in either lowland or upland landscape.

4.5.30 The hill slopes comprise large scale rolling and rounded profiles which gradually merge into a series of broad ridgelines, spurs and hollows. Whilst very locally, the hill summits of Cairny Hill and Black Hill appear as skyline features, in the more prevalent mid - long distance views, these hill summits form subsidiary lower slopes to the higher, more prominent Hill of Wirren to the north. Hill of Wirren and its associated higher summits form a backcloth to the Lower Cairny site, with Cairny Hill forming a minor lower level feature of the overall hill massif, being located well below the higher hill summits of Hill of Wirren (678m) and its associated summits.

4.5.31 Given the modest scale of the proposal site, and that the site is part of a managed agricultural landscape, it is considered to be of medium landscape character sensitivity. Visual sensitivity is varied, with a significant degree of screening and enclosure afforded by adjacent ridgelines and by the uplands to

the north but visible as a small section of the lower part of a more extensive range of hills when seen from the lowlands, settlements and transport routes to the south and east. Overall, it is considered that the proposal site has medium landscape sensitivity to the introduction of a proposed wind farm.

Analysis of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Mapping

4.5.32 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps are determined by computer based visibility analysis software which identifies locations from which some part of the proposal would be theoretically visible. Where these ZTV maps utilise only 'bare ground' as their basis, they take no account of the potential screening influence of existing trees and buildings, and therefore represent a 'worst case' theoretical visibility scenario.

4.5.33 ZTV maps give a good indication of the broad areas from which wind turbines may be seen and are useful as a tool for informing the visual assessment process. However, they also possess a number of limitations as listed below that should be noted:

- A ZTV can only indicate potential theoretical visibility
- Areas of potential visibility identified on ZTV plans require site verification to establish if specific site features will limit or prevent visibility of the proposed development
- A ZTV's accuracy is limited by the data available and used to create it. Most importantly, the accuracy of this is limited by Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data, which cannot distinguish below a certain level of detail, and is limited by the need for software to 'interpolate' between the heights at survey points
- Correlation of areas of theoretical visibility with the likelihood of the presence of people is required to establish the likelihood of views being experienced from these areas
- A ZTV cannot indicate potential visual effects, nor the significance of these.

4.5.34 These limitations indicate that ZTV plans tend to overestimate the actual extent of visibility of a proposed development within a particular area. Consequently, they should be considered only as a tool to assist in assessing the actual visibility of a development and not a measure of its visual impact.

4.5.35 Computer generated ZTV mapping has been undertaken to assist in determining the likely extent of visibility of the proposed wind cluster within the Study Area, and to establish the selection of viewpoints for detailed visual assessment. ZTV mapping has been undertaken in accordance with the

guidance included within ‘Visual Representation of Windfarms Good Practice Guidance’ for the height of turbine proposed. ZTV mapping has been prepared as ‘bare ground’ as a worst case scenario, and as a ‘with trees’ version, taking account of the likely screening effect of existing woods, plantations and tree belts within the Study Area. Further details on the ZTV mapping process are included in the section of this assessment considering impacts on visual amenity.

4.5.36 As the ZTV mapping will be used within both the landscape and visual impact sections of this assessment, an analysis of the ZTV mapping is included here. Figure 4.4 shows the ‘bare ground’ blade tip ZTV superimposed on the 25km Study Area. This ZTV map has been prepared, using only existing landform data, to indicate the number of turbine blade tips which would be theoretically visible from particular locations, as indicated by the colour gradations. As such, this represents the worst-case scenario of theoretical visibility of the proposed wind cluster. Where no colour is shown, this indicates that no part of the wind turbines would be visible. The ZTV map gives no indication of the actual appearance of the proposed wind cluster, but simply identifies those locations from which some part of it would be theoretically visible. This information therefore provides a basis for more detailed assessment work verified through site assessment.

4.5.37 Figure 4.5 indicates the ‘With Trees’ ZTV to blade tip over a detailed Study Area, showing the additional screening effects of existing buildings and trees groups on the pattern of visibility. Tree cover within the Study Area is an important element of the landscape and visual character, and therefore plays an important role within the Study Area in terms of influencing the extent of actual visibility of the proposal, compared to the ‘bare ground’ worst-case scenario.

4.5.38 These ZTV maps indicate the likely spread of visibility of the proposed wind cluster and determine those sections of the Study Area where any potential effect of the proposed wind cluster might occur. No effect could occur in areas where the proposed wind cluster would not be visible.

4.5.39 Figure 4.4 indicates a limited overall spread of theoretical visibility within the Study Area, with a large proportion of the Study Area being unaffected by the proposed turbines. The pattern of theoretical visibility can be generally divided into two main areas:

- A fragmented band of theoretical visibility along the edge of the *Highland* landscape region, running north-east to south-west, with only occasional higher hilltops to the north indicating limited areas of theoretical visibility and including much of the West Water Valley
- A broader area of theoretical visibility to the east of the site, extending across the lowland agricultural landscape, contained by rising lowland hills to the east of Brechin and fragmented into two main areas by a wedge of no theoretical visibility east of Edzell and which extends towards Laurencekirk

4.5.40 Figure 4.5 indicates the extent of visibility taking account of the likely screening effect of trees and buildings. Trees have been modelled at a height of 15m and buildings at a height of 8m. An analysis of the ZTV spread and patterns of Figure 4.5 indicates the following, particularly in comparison those shown characteristics identified in Figure 4.4:

- The band of theoretical visibility along the edge of the Highland landscape region is further fragmented and reduced in extent, with some reduction in the detailed extent of theoretical visibility along the West Water Valley and its lower slopes due to the screening effect of individual tree belts
- A considerable reduction in the spread of theoretical visibility throughout the lowland agricultural landscape to the east, with Edzell indicating no theoretical visibility except along its western boundary, Laurencekirk and Fettercairn having virtually no theoretical visibility and with theoretical visibility along the A90 being fragmented by adjacent tree belts along the road
- A noticeable reduction in the spread of theoretical visibility throughout the lowland landscape, where the intricate pattern of woodlands, forests and tree groups, particularly Edzell Wood and the plantations to its east, the woodlands to the north of Edzell and around Fettercairn play an important role in limiting the spread of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines
- All theoretical visibility along the lower section of Glen Esk is avoided, due to the screening effect of existing woods, tree belts and plantations along the valley sides and bottom.

4.5.41 The ZTV patterns clearly indicate that the site of the proposed wind cluster uses existing intervening topographic ridges to substantially limit its general spread of theoretical visibility throughout the wider landscape. The intervening ridge of the Caterthuns, Hill of Lundie and Edzell Hill all combine to restrict the spread of visibility of the turbines over much of the lowland landscape to the south and east of the site. Additionally, the location of most of the main settlements on lower ground, often in

topographic hollows, tends to limit the exposure of these settlements to any visual impact due to screening by intervening landform. Also, the extent of screening by tree cover, both close to the proposal site and throughout the wider landscape, further considerably reduces the extent of visibility of the proposed turbines, both at a local level but more notably throughout the wider lowland agricultural landscape.

Effect on Landscape Character

General

4.5.42 The site of the proposed wind cluster is located within in the ‘*Edzell Foothills*’ unit, at its upper section close to its junction with the ‘*Muckle Cairn/Hill of Glansie/Hill of Wirren*’ unit of the ‘*Highland Summits and Plateaux*’ landscape type. The ‘*West Water Valley*’ unit of the ‘*Mid Highland Glens*’ landscape types lies immediately south of the proposal site. The proposal site therefore lies at the complex intersection of three landscape character types, and represents a transitional landscape from north - south, east – west and from valley floor to upland slopes.

4.5.43 Figure 4.6 indicates the ‘bare ground’ ZTV mapping overlaid onto the landscape character plan, to establish how the pattern of theoretical visibility relates to the distribution and pattern of landscape character types. Figure 4.7 indicates the ‘with trees’ ZTV overlaid onto the landscape character plan.

Highland Foothills

4.5.44 The siting of the proposed wind cluster within the ‘*Edzell Foothills*’ unit of the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ would result in considerable theoretical visibility throughout the unit, although this would be limited towards the east of the unit. Figure 4.7 indicates the clear screening effect that Hill of Edzell has on restricting visibility of the turbines within the east of the landscape unit. Sections of the ‘*Menmuir Foothills*’ unit of the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ landscape type indicate more limited theoretical visibility with the proposed wind cluster, predominantly at its north-eastern edge, with much of the landscape unit being unaffected. The ‘*Kirriemuir Foothills*’ unit would be unaffected.

4.5.45 The ‘*Edzell Foothills*’ unit represents a settled, working landscape of fields, tree belts, plantations, settlements and roads, with a distinctive ‘grain’ and pattern of land uses, where human modification and use of the landscape are key characteristics. Whilst being elevated above the wider lowland agricultural landscape to the south, this landscape unit displays the order and geometric pattern typical of the broad

agricultural landscape of the Lower Esk Valleys to the south, which it flanks. The detailed turbine positions have followed the land use division between improved and unimproved pasture, which is a defining characteristic not just of the Lower Cairny site but also of the wider foothills which flank the Howe of the Mearns. There would be no tree loss within the adjacent shelterbelts from the introduction of the proposed wind cluster, and the overall relationship between the tree belts and open land would remain intact and unaltered, and therefore the general landscape pattern of the area would be retained. This approach has ensured that the wind cluster layout directly responds to the landscape pattern of the *'Edzell Foothills'* landscape unit.

4.5.46 The transitional scale of the topography of this landscape unit means that the foothills are relatively modest in scale compared to the higher hills of the summits and plateaux to the north.

4.5.47 The selection of 74m high turbines, which are relatively small in overall terms compared to most commercial wind turbines, has ensured that the turbines would not appear dominating in terms of their scale compared to the scale of the foothills on which they are located. It is considered that the transitional scale of the topography of the landscape of the *'Edzell Foothills'* is able to accommodate the scale of turbine proposed.

4.5.48 Whilst the proposed turbines would undoubtedly become prominent new features within much of this landscape, their compact design layout and simple composition would create a clearly legible image and clarity of visual composition of components which would be strongly related to the underlying simplicity of the landscape character of the area, as well as to the land use pattern of the site and the surrounding area. The small number of turbines would allow the wind cluster to appear as a small-scale, concentrated feature within the surrounding landscape of the landscape unit. The design approach of generally following a common contour line for the level of the turbines relates them well to the landscape pattern of the landscape unit.

4.5.49 The introduction of the proposed wind cluster into this landscape unit would inevitably result in considerable landscape change to the area and associated adverse landscape character impacts. However, the introduction of the proposed wind farm would not result in the landscape unit becoming a *'wind farm landscape'*, where turbines would be the dominant landscape element. The introduction of a small-scale wind cluster, positioned where it uses existing topographic screening within the landscape

unit to reduce the visibility throughout the landscape unit itself would be consistent with the ‘acceptable future windfarm character’ for the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ landscape type, outlined in the IGREP, of ‘Landscape with Occasional Windfarms’, where the proposed wind cluster would not be of such a scale or extent, or where it would not be of such a contrast with the underlying landscape character, that it would become one of the key defining features of the landscape type.

Magnitude of Landscape Change: Medium

Sensitivity: Medium

Significance of Landscape Impact: Moderate Adverse

Highland Summits and Plateaux

4.5.50 Theoretical visibility of the proposed wind cluster would be restricted to the ‘*Muckle Cairn/Hill of Glansie/Hill of Wirren*’ unit of the ‘*Highland Summits and Plateaux*’ landscape type. The other units of the landscape type would be unaffected.

4.5.51 The proposed wind cluster would have very limited theoretical visibility throughout the ‘*Muckle Cairn/Hill of Glansie/Hill of Wirren*’ landscape unit, which would be limited to its southern fringe to the immediate north of the proposal site, and to a small area of east facing slopes to the west of the West Water Valley. The very large majority of the landscape unit would be unaffected. This limited visibility would ensure that the upland character which typifies this landscape unit, which is generally devoid of development, would be retained, and the remote and wilderness character would be unaffected. Any impact on the recreational use of the landscape unit would be negligible. The hills which typify this landscape unit would remain the dominant characteristic.

Magnitude of Landscape Change: Negligible

Sensitivity: Medium

Significance of Landscape Impact: Slight Adverse

Mid Highland Glens

4.5.52 Theoretical visibility of the proposed wind cluster would be restricted to the *West Water Valley* unit, predominantly to the immediate south and south-west of the proposal site. Much of the upper northern section of the *West Water Valley* would be unaffected. The other *Mid Highland Glens* units would be unaffected.

4.5.53 The *Mid Highland Glens* generally comprise of a settled, working landscape with strong patterns of fields, shelterbelts, forests and roads, where human modification and development is already a defining characteristic of the landscape type. The *West Water Valley* unit is particularly characterised by a large-scale overhead transmission line which traverses the landscape unit. The introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be on the lower section of a hill slope of an adjacent landscape unit which flanks and physically contains the West Water Valley, where the turbines would form prominent new features from within the lower section of the landscape unit, although not they would not be physically located within the West Water Valley itself. The enclosed, short range nature of the views available from within the unit would result in the turbines forming prominent elements on the enclosing hill slopes.

Magnitude of Landscape Change: Medium

Sensitivity: Medium - High

Significance of Landscape Impact: Moderate Adverse

Broad Valley Lowland

4.5.54 Theoretical visibility of the proposed wind cluster would be limited to the eastern section of the *Lower South and North Esk River Valley* landscape unit, to the north-east of Brechin, with much of the unit being unaffected due to the screening effect of the Menmuir Foothills. The 'With Trees' ZTV (Figure 4.7) indicates the considerable screening effect which the existing tree pattern of the landscape unit has on reducing the overall theoretical visibility pattern throughout the eastern section of the unit. The *Strathmore* unit would be unaffected.

The proposed wind cluster would be seen in views from within the landscape unit as a small-scale feature set within the lower slopes of the higher and more extensive hill backdrop to the lowlands. The proposed turbines would not be located close to the skyline profile of this backdrop of hills, and would not compromise the visual prominence of Hill of Wirren and its associated summits. The main settlements throughout the area would have no theoretical visibility with the proposed turbines and would be unaffected. It would be clear that the proposed wind cluster is located within a different landscape unit, and not within the *Broad Valley Lowland*. The strong agricultural character of the landscape unit would be retained.

Magnitude of Landscape Change: Low

Sensitivity: Medium

Significance of Landscape Impact: Slight Adverse

Landscape of the Proposal Site

4.5.55 The proposed turbine layout has directly responded to the detailed landscape pattern of the site by following the land use division between improved and unimproved pasture, which is a defining characteristic of the Lower Cairny site. There would be no tree loss within the adjacent shelterbelts from the introduction of the proposed wind cluster, and the overall relationship between the tree belts and open land would remain intact and unaltered, and therefore the general landscape pattern of the area would be retained. The design approach of generally following a common contour line for the level of the turbines would relate them well to the topographic pattern of the site. Additionally, the selection of 74m high turbines, which are relatively small in overall terms compared to most commercial wind turbines, would ensure that the turbines would not appear dominating in terms of their scale compared to the scale of the foothills on which they are located. A small meter building would be introduced adjacent to the field boundary where it would relate to the landscape pattern of the site.

4.5.56 The agricultural improved and unimproved grassland character of the site would not be affected by the introduction of the two proposed turbines, and only a very limited extent of new access track would be required, as an extension of the existing track already linking the site to the nearby minor road to the south. Consequently, physical changes to the landscape character of the site would be limited, although the introduction of the turbines themselves would substantially change the visual character of the site.

Magnitude of Landscape Change: High

Sensitivity: Medium

Significance of Landscape Impact: Moderate Adverse

Summary

4.5.57 Whilst there would be a moderate adverse impact on the landscape character of the proposal site and its immediate surroundings, the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would not result in the wider 'Highland Foothills' landscape type within which it would be located becoming a 'wind farm landscape', as the small scale of the proposal would not physically or visually form the dominant characteristic of the landscape type. However, local landscape character impacts on this landscape type would still be considered to be moderate adverse. A moderate adverse impact would also occur on the 'West Water Valley' unit of the 'Mid Highland Glens' landscape type immediately to the south of the

proposal site, due primarily to its close proximity, short range views and the elevated location of the turbines on the adjacent hill slope above the landscape type. Other surrounding landscape types would be largely unaffected by the introduction of the proposed wind cluster, and the wider underlying landscape character of the Study Area would not be compromised by the introduction of the proposed wind cluster.

Effect on Designated Landscapes

National Designations

4.5.58 The only areas of national landscape designation within Angus are:

- The Deeside and Lochnagar National Scenic Area (NSA), the southern section of which lies in the north-western part of Angus, including the highest mountains and Glen Doll at the head of Glen Clova
- The Cairngorms National Park is located in the north of Angus and extends beyond into Aberdeenshire. It includes the NSA within its boundaries. The National Park area includes the northern parts of the *Highland Summits and Plateaux* and *Upper Highland Glens* areas.

4.5.59 The Deeside and Lochnagar NSA lies outwith the 20km Study Area boundary and is therefore not considered further in this assessment.

4.5.60 A small section of the south-eastern part of the National Park lies just within the north-west of the 20km Study Area. The design strategy for Lower Cairny has located relatively small-scale turbines at a low elevation on the east facing slope of the *Highland* landscape region to avoid any visibility within the National Park to the north and north-west. The 'bare ground' ZTV for the proposed Lower Cairny Wind Cluster does not indicate any areas of theoretical visibility within the National Park, and therefore the proposal would have no impact on its landscape and scenic qualities. Consequently, the National Park is not considered further in this report.

Local and Regional Designations

4.5.61 There are no local landscape designations such as AGLVs within Angus. The protection of landscape character outside the National Park is based on local plan policy which is informed by the TLCA.

*Other Designations***Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes*****General***

4.5.62 An Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) in Scotland identifies, in five volumes, specific gardens and designed landscapes of importance in terms of their artistic, historical, architectural, scenic and nature conservation value. Additional volumes identify Candidate Sites, which are considered worthy of inclusion in the Inventory. Planning policies generally provide a framework for the continued protection, conservation and use of these areas that does not prejudice their scenic or cultural value in accordance with national policy.

Historic Scotland also provide a wide range of information on these sites on their website which has been used to establish the current baseline information on which to undertake the assessment of impact.

4.5.63 Reference to the Inventory indicates various sites are located within the 20km Study Area. Figure 4.8 shows these GDLs in the general context of the 20km Study Area, with the 'bare ground' ZTV mapping overlaid. Consideration of Figure 4.8 indicates that the following GDLs would have theoretical visibility with the proposed wind cluster, and are therefore considered further within this assessment. The remaining GDLs would have no theoretical visibility with the proposed wind cluster, and would be unaffected by its introduction, and therefore are not considered further:

- Edzell Castle
- Fasque House
- The Burn
- Kinnaird Castle

Assessment Tables

Table 4.1 Likely Impact on Gardens and Designed Landscapes			
Comments from Inventory	Sensitivity	Extent of Visibility	Likely Impact
Edzell Castle – c2km to east			
The late 16 th century pleasure garden is one of the most historically valuable gardens in Scotland. The Castle lies in the lee of a heavily wooded hill immediately to its west, which restricts all views westwards to the wider landscape. The Hill of Edzell to the north also tends to limit views northwards to the Grampian Hills. Views from the Castle Tower to the south over the open agricultural landscape are important. Views from within the Garden itself are strongly limited by the boundary walls, the flat nature of the landscape to the south and the screening influence of the wooded hill to the immediate west.	High	GDL indicated as being on edge of visibility pattern. Views westwards from the car park and the Castle garden are likely to be fully screened by an unnamed heavily wooded hill, which is located immediately west of the GDL, and the boundary walls to the Garden also restrict views outwards. The important views from the Tower are southwards away from the direction of the proposal. The 'With Trees' ZTV indicates no theoretical visibility with the proposal.	<i>Effect</i> – <i>Negligible/No Impact</i>

Fasque House – c9km to the east			
<p>A large landscaped park developed in the 18th and 19th centuries, attached to an important country house. The walls, policy woodland and parkland make a major contribution to the surrounding scenery, and are highly visible from the nearby roads. There are views from the house of Strathmore to the south and The Mearns to the east.</p>	Medium	<p>Some theoretical visibility is indicated around the periphery of the GDL. The 'With Trees' ZTV indicates a considerable reduction in the extent of theoretical visibility, limited to a small area at the south-western periphery. Boundary tree belts are likely to fully screen any views towards the proposal site. The key views from the house are away from the direction of the proposal site.</p>	<p><i>Effect</i> – <i>Negligible/No Impact</i></p>
The Burn – c 4km to the east			
<p>The Burn has some scenic value within the wider landscape. The River North Esk on the west boundary is an important feature from within the landscape; magnificent views can be gained from the woodland walk along the edge above the river. The forestry belts, which enclose the policies, restrict views into the site and also serve to generally restrict views out to the wider surrounding landscape.</p>	Medium	<p>The ZTV indicates virtually no theoretical visibility within the GDL. Tree cover is likely to fully restrict all views of the proposed turbines.</p>	<p><i>Effect</i> – <i>Negligible/No Impact</i></p>

Kinnaird Castle – c 13.5km to the south-south-east			
The GDL has outstanding scenic value by virtue of its size and impact on the surrounding area. The driveway to the west of the loch is on higher ground and permits extensive views across the loch and the park. Fine views are afforded from the park.	Medium	The ZTV indicates a fragmented pattern of theoretical visibility within the GDL, predominantly in the central core. Any views of the proposed turbines would be at a considerable distance where they would be seen against a backcloth of higher ground behind, and where their perceptibility would be limited. Views from the driveway across the loch would be away from the direction of the proposal site.	<i>Effect – Slight Adverse</i>

Summary

4.5.64 The proposed wind cluster would have no impact on areas of national designation.

4.5.65 The proposed wind cluster would have either no or a negligible impact on the large majority of GDLs within the Study Area. The proposed wind cluster would be partially visible from within part of the grounds of Kinnaird Castle, at a distance of c13.5km, and therefore any impact on the essential qualities, character and integrity of the GDL is considered to be slight. In overall terms, the proposed wind cluster would have a slight adverse impact on GDLs within the Study Area, which would be not significant.

4.6 Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity

Influences on General Visibility

4.6.1 Research on the visibility of various operational wind farms, the majority of which had overall turbine heights between 53.5 and 65.5m, undertaken by the University of Newcastle on behalf of SNH (Visual Assessment of Wind Farms: Best Practice), concluded that the inter-related issues of visibility and perceptibility of wind farms in the landscape is a complex and variable subject, and is dependent upon a

range of circumstances including weather and light conditions, human responses and physical issues of distance, scale, grouping and proportion of turbines to their visual context.

4.6.2 This visual assessment has been undertaken by assessors, trained in visual assessment and specifically looking for the site of the proposal within selected views, and in conditions of good visibility, which is defined by The Metrological Office as equating to when an observer can see further than 9.26km. The assessments are therefore intended to represent a 'worst case' scenario of the likely effect of the proposal on visual amenity.

Visual Characteristics of the Proposed Wind Cluster

4.6.3 Predominantly, guidance on wind farm development indicates that they are not expected to be considered as enhancements to the visual environment, particularly in rural and coastal areas, and that consequently, their addition to the visual environment is most likely to lead to adverse visual impacts. National guidance indicates that adverse visual impacts are almost certain to occur.

4.6.4 The proposal would introduce a series of elements into the visual environment of the Study Area. Some of these would be seen as isolated visual elements or features, whilst others may individually or collectively appear to change the overall intrinsic character of the visual resource and the overall quality of the general visual amenity. The key visual elements of the proposed wind cluster would be:

- The two wind turbines, seen collectively as prominent contemporary industrial visual elements, simple but striking in their visual form due to the vertical form of the towers and the radial positions of the turbine blades and movement of the blades.
- Additionally, the turbines would be positioned and aligned with a clearly defined relationship to the existing field boundary , within a predominantly open but simple landscape;
- The new access track leading to the locations of the proposed turbines, following the contour across the site and seen as an extension of the existing agricultural access track linking the turbine site to the minor road below;
- A small meter building located adjacent to the existing field boundary division between improved and unimproved pasture.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Mapping

4.6.4 An analysis of the spread and pattern of theoretical visibility of the proposed wind cluster shown on Figures 4.4 and 4.5 is described above under the heading '*Analysis of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Mapping*'.

Selection of Viewpoints

4.6.5 Based on locations indicated within the ZTV mapping as having theoretical visibility with the proposed wind cluster, a series of viewpoints have been identified for detailed visual assessment purposes which are considered to be representative of the full range of visual receptors and view types relevant to this proposal, as well as being located at varying distances, elevations and orientations from the proposal site. The selected viewpoints concentrate on nearby settlements, locations on the public road and footpath network and recognised outdoor recreational areas and important historical features. The final selection of viewpoints for assessment within the LVIA was agreed with Angus Council, and is shown in the table below.

Number	Location	Approx. Original Grid Ref.	Final Grid Ref.	Elevation	Comments
1	Pirner's Brig picnic site car park	NO 58243 68769	NO 57821 68931	77m	No visibility from Edzell cemetery, picnic site chosen as alternative
2	Edzell Castle Gardens	NO 58553 69169	NO 58442 69101	75m	Designed landscape and historic site
3	Edzell – western edge	NO 59793 68839	NO 59750 68826	62m	Local community and core path
4	Inchbare – western edge	NO 60603 65589	NO 60481 65575	55m	Local community
5	Minor road SW of Edzell, at junction with path	NO 59583 68209	NO 59575 68194	59m	Typical view from SE and core path
6	Brown Caterthun summit	NO 55583 66829	NO 55547 66906	292m	Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
7	White Caterthun summit	NO 54763 66049	NO 54816 66090	300m	Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
8	A90 Layby	NO 61473 63759	NO 61461 63760	84m	Major road layby on westbound carriageway
9	A90 junction	NO 65292 66379	NO 65238 66426	36m	Minor road junction close to the A90
10	South of Fettercairn	NO 65512 72759	NO 65487 72809	64m	Local community/ road to E of site
11	Hill of Finavon fort	NO 50723 55709	NO 50760 55698	206m	SAM to SW of site, Fort used rather than summit to SW to ensure full view of windfarm
12	Bridgend road junction	NO 53573 68029	NO 53583 68005	154m	Local community to W of site
13	Minor road west of Caterthuns – Tullo Farm	NO 53763 66889	NO 53743 66863	177m	Local road to SW of site

Assessment of Effects on Visual Amenity at Selected Viewpoints

4.6.6 This section considers the likely effect on visual amenity at the selected viewpoints indicated in Table 4.2, through a consideration of the following:

- Information regarding the viewpoint location and the people using it;
- The existing visual amenity at the viewpoint;
- The change to visual amenity resulting from the introduction of the proposed wind cluster.

These considerations are outlined in more detail in Appendix 4. It should be noted that not all considerations are always relevant for every viewpoint.

4.6.7 In the associated figures, each selected viewpoint is presented as an existing photograph, a computer generated wireline of the proposed wind cluster and a photomontage or photowireline visualisation dependant on the extent of visibility of the proposed wind cluster.

The following Tables 4.3 to 4.15 include the Assessment of Visual Impact at Selected Viewpoints.

Table 4.3			
<i>Viewpoint: 1</i>	Pirner's Brig picnic site car park		
Figure:	4.9	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	2.47km / 295°
Grid Reference	NO 57821 68931	Elev. of viewpoint	77m +/- 6m acc.
Viewpoint and Users			
<p>The viewpoint is located at the western edge of a small car park serving the local picnic spot at Pirner's Brig. Pirner's Brig is a bridge crossing the West Water, approached by a path that runs from the car park and picnic site along the top of a deep gorge to the bridge. Picnic tables are located behind the car park in a grassy area behind trees, with another popular picnic spot nearer to the river and bridge, but which would have no visibility of the proposed turbines. Therefore the car park was selected to provide maximum potential visibility from this viewpoint. Visitors to viewpoint would be local residents who use the picnic site or the occasional passing tourist. <i>This viewpoint is an alternative to Edzell cemetery, the originally proposed viewpoint, which because of intervening vegetation and local topography would have no inter-visibility with the proposed turbines.</i> The viewpoint is not located within a designated area.</p>			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
<p>The foreground view consists of flat, improved grassland fields, rising up to a backdrop skyline formed by the Hill of Formal, Craig Narb, Cairny Hill and a coniferous plantation on the southern slopes of the Hill of Edzell. Other areas of mixed woodland can be seen throughout the view, with a woodland belt to the west visually dividing the flat grass fields with the rising ground beyond. An overhead transmission line crosses the view, with two pylons clearly visible, backclothed against the sky and ground. In the immediate vicinity of the car park, fences and a large rubbish bin form the visual elements, whilst behind the viewer riparian woodland forms the predominant feature, with the picnic tables seen in the clearing.</p>			
Sensitivity			
<p>The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be high.</p>			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
<p>The proposed development would introduce one turbine into the view, seen to almost full height predominantly against a backdrop of ground, with only a small section of the blade tip being skylined. The other turbine would be fully screened by an intervening dense block of woodland. The turbine would appear as part of the lowland character of view, being separate from the upper moorland hills in the distance and seen as part of the valley landscape. The turbine would appear as a small scale object within a larger scale landscape, where the scale of the existing landscape would be retained and not overwhelmed. Movement of the turbine blades would be visible.</p>			

<p>Magnitude of Change</p> <p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be low, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact</p> <p>The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 2.47km; • The sensitivity of the viewpoint is medium; • The magnitude of change is considered to be low; • The proposed turbine would form a new small-scale element within the view and would not be out of scale with the wider landscape; • The existing skyline profile of the view would be predominantly unaffected. <p>Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a slight adverse visual impact at Viewpoint 1, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be visible but as a minor feature within the view, and with the visual resource predominantly remaining as defined by the baseline conditions.</p>

Table 4.4			
<i>Viewpoint: 2</i>	Edzell Castle Gardens		
Figure:	4.10	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	2.98km / 287°
Grid Reference	NO 58442 69101	Elev. of viewpoint	75m +/- 10m acc
Viewpoint and Users			
The viewpoint is located outside the original main castle entrance, on the western elevation of the castle. The Castle grounds are listed within the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and visitors are typically tourists, other visiting groups such as school groups or residents from the surrounding area.			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
The views consist of a large beech hedge within the castle grounds and beyond the hedge a heavily wooded hill immediately to the west, which restricts all views westwards to the wider landscape. The Hill of Edzell to the north also limits views northwards. There would be no views from within the walled pleasance garden towards the proposed turbines. Views from within the Castle Tower are generally towards the south over the open agricultural landscape, with only a very oblique view towards the north-west and the proposed development site obtained by leaning out from a western facing window. It is considered that the primary view from the Castle Tower would be of the walled pleasance garden.			
Sensitivity The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be high .			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
There would be no change to the existing view, as the proposed turbines would be fully screened from view by intervening topography and vegetation.			
Magnitude of Change			
The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be none , as there would be no change to the visual resource.			
Assessment of Impact			
As the proposed turbines would not be visible and the magnitude of change would therefore be none, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have no effect on the visual amenity of Viewpoint 2.			

Table 4.5			
<i>Viewpoint: 3</i>	Edzell – western edge		
Figure:	4.11	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	4.30km / 285°
Grid Reference	NO 59750 68826	Elev. of viewpoint	62m +/- 5m acc
Viewpoint and Users			
<p>The viewpoint is located at the western edge of Edzell, along a section of the Angus Council core path network (<i>Route 13, Lethnot Road to the Glebe</i>). The viewpoint is located slightly off the footpath itself, at the boundary hedge. Users of the footpath would be mainly local residents. The viewpoint is also representative of views obtained from local houses with views facing west. The viewpoint is not located within a designated area.</p>			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
<p>The foreground view consists of flat, arable fields, rising up to a backdrop skyline formed by the Hill of Lundie, Hill of Edzell and Cairny Hill. Shelterbelts, blocks and pockets of woodland - both coniferous plantations and mixed woodland - appear throughout the scene, forming a main component of the view. Farm buildings, cottages and housing and wooden pole overhead power lines complete the agricultural character of the view. Behind the viewer are houses which are part of the western edge of Edzell, some with upper-story views towards the west although recent woodland planting along the village boundary would be likely to obscure most views out to the open landscape in the long term. An overhead wood pole line forms a prominent feature in the foreground.</p>			
Sensitivity			
<p>The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be high.</p>			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
<p>The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view, seen predominantly as blades only above an intervening forested ridgeline. The turbine blades would be backclothed by higher ground behind, with only a very small part of one turbine blade breaking the skyline, although this would not alter or compete with the existing skyline profile. The proposed turbines would appear as small-scale features within the broad sweep of the view, and the overall character of the view would be largely unaltered. The position of the proposed turbines would visually separate them from the open moorland hills which form the backdrop to the view, and they would appear to be set down within the landscape rather than located within the more elevated and exposed hills which form the backdrop of the view.</p>			
Magnitude of Change			
<p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be low, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.</p>			

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 4.3km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is medium;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be low;
- The proposed turbines would form new small-scale elements within the view and would not be out of scale with the wider landscape;
- The existing skyline profile of the view would be predominantly unaffected.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **slight adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 3, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be visible but as a minor feature within the view, and with the visual resource predominantly remaining as defined by the baseline conditions.

Table 4.6			
<i>Viewpoint: 4</i>	Inchbare – western edge		
Figure:	4.12	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	6.59km / 312°
Grid Reference	NO 60481 65575	Elev. of viewpoint	55m +/- 8m acc
Viewpoint and Users			
This roadside viewpoint is located at the western edge of Inchbare, a small village south of Edzell. People travelling in a westerly direction will experience this view; it is also representative of views for the local community. The viewpoint is not located within a designated area.			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
The view is primarily an agricultural scene, with the foreground consisting of flat arable and improved grassland fields, which rise up to a backdrop skyline formed by the Hill of Wirren massif. Shelterbelts and other areas of mixed woodland can be seen throughout the view, with strong geometric shapes formed by blocks of coniferous plantations on the lower slopes of the hills. A number of wooden pole overhead lines cross the view, with a farm and a number of houses also nearby. The predominant visual feature in the view is the summit of Hill of Wirren massif.			
Sensitivity			
The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be high .			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view, seen above a low-lying wooded ridgeline and fully backclothed against the higher hills beyond. One turbine would be seen almost to full height with the other only being visible as a blade above the wooded ridge. The proposed turbines would appear as very small features within the overall view, and the visual prominence of the Hill of Wirren massif in the view would not be compromised. The proposed turbines would be located within the view where they would be associated more with the low-lying hills and ridges which edge the lowland agricultural landscape than with the higher open moorland hills beyond which typify the edge of the Mounth. The overall scale and rural character of the view, and the visual character of the existing skyline profile, would not be affected.			

Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **low**, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 6.59km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is medium;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be low;
- The proposed turbines would form new small-scale elements within the view and would not be out of scale with the wider landscape;
- The proposed turbines would be fully backclothed and would be seen more in proximity to the lowland agricultural landscape than the higher moorland hills beyond;
- The existing skyline profile of the view would not be unaffected, and the Hill of Wirren would remain as the most prominent visual feature within the view.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **slight adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 4, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be visible but as a minor feature within the view, and with the visual resource predominantly remaining as defined by the baseline conditions.

Table 4.7

<i>Viewpoint: 5</i>	Minor road SW of Edzell, at junction with path		
Figure:	4.13	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	4.37km / 294°
Grid Reference	NO 59575 68194	Elev. of viewpoint	59m +/- 5m acc

Viewpoint and Users

The viewpoint is located on a junction with the core path to Bonhard (No.015) and the minor road just beyond the south-western edge of Edzell. It is opposite the entrance and car park to Edzell Golf Club. The view would be experienced predominantly by visitors and residents leaving Edzell heading west or arriving at the golf course. The viewpoint is not located within any designated areas.

Description of Existing Visual Amenity

The foreground view consists of flat, agricultural fields, rising up to a backdrop skyline formed by the Hill of Formal, Craig Narb, Cairny Hill and a coniferous plantation on the southern slopes of the Hill of Edzell. Other areas of mixed woodland can be seen throughout the view, including the woodland on the outskirts of Edzell. In the middle distance, farm buildings can be seen, with a wood pole power line crossing the view, and further to the north-east, a steel pylon power line can also be seen. The overall character of the view is of a low-lying agricultural landscape just at the transition to the higher open moorland hills beyond.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be **medium**.

Change to the Visual Amenity

The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view, seen almost to full height and fully backclothed against higher ground beyond. The proposed turbines would appear to be set down within the landscape, and would not alter the existing skyline profile of the view.

The proposed turbines would appear as small features within the overall view, and the visual prominence of the Hill of Wirren massif in the view would not be compromised. The proposed turbines would be located within the view where they would be associated more with the low-lying hills and ridges which edge the lowland agricultural landscape than with the higher open moorland hills beyond which typify the edge of the Mounth. The overall scale and rural character of the view, and the visual character of the existing skyline profile, would not be affected.

Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **low**, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 4.37km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is medium;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be low;
- The proposed turbines would form new small-scale elements within the view and would not be out of scale with the wider landscape;
- The proposed turbines would be fully backclothed and would be seen more in proximity to the lowland agricultural landscape than the higher moorland hills beyond;
- The existing skyline profile of the view would be unaffected, and the Hill of Wirren would remain as the most prominent visual feature within the view.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **slight adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 5, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be visible but as a minor feature within the view, and with the visual resource predominantly remaining as defined by the baseline conditions.

Table 4.8

<i>Viewpoint: 6</i>	Brown Caterthun summit		
Figure:	4.14	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	3.07km / 356°
Grid Reference	NO 55547 66906	Elev. of viewpoint	292m +/- 5m acc

Viewpoint and Users

The Brown and White Caterthuns are two large Iron Age hill-forts on two neighbouring hilltops on the fringe of the Angus Glens. They can both be visited by short walks from a lay-by on a road between the two, and they offer fine views both towards the glens and over Strathmore. There is a small picnic area at the lay-by. Visitors often visit both summits and spend time walking around the remains of the ramparts. Visitors would probably be likely to be either from the local area and use the hills for a regular walk and enjoy the views, or those who have travelled specifically to investigate the historical nature of the site. There is a rough heather track to the Brown Caterthun summit; and a good path for the short climb to the White Caterthun summit. Both the Brown and White Caterthun hill forts are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Description of Existing Visual Amenity

It is considered that the primary views are directed out over Strathmore and towards the coast, where Montrose and the Montrose Basin can be readily identified. The hills forming the Angus Glens comprise

the visual backdrop, particularly the Hill of Wirren massif, with the moorland and grassland slopes distinctly different to the agricultural pattern of the lowland areas. The nearby flat-topped, rocky summit of White Caterthun also forms a key element within the view to the south-west. The immediate foreground views consist of the heather clad slopes of the hill, and below, towards the proposed development site, an overhead power line can be seen skirting around the base of the Hill of Edzell.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be **high**.

Change to the Visual Amenity

The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view. These would be seen to full height against the backdrop of the higher rising ground beyond. The proposed turbines would be set low down on the opposite hillside of the valley, where they would be visually separate from the skyline profile and from the main outline of the Hill of Wirren massif, which would remain the prominent visual feature within the view. The proposed position of the turbines would be well related to the landscape pattern on the hillside, responding to the change between improved and unimproved pasture. The proposed turbines would also follow the contour across the hill slope, ensuring a balanced, ordered and simple visual composition. Blade movement would be visible.

Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **medium**, as there would be a considerable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 3km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is high;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be medium;
- The proposed turbines would not compete with the scale and mass of the Hill of Wirren within the view;
- The proposed turbines would be fully backclothed and would not compete with the skyline profile;
- The key view direction is considered to be towards Strathmore and the coast, and not towards the location of the proposed development;
- The proposed turbines would appear as a simple, visually balanced composition and would be well related to the landscape pattern of the valley hillside.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **moderate adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 6, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be a new prominent visual feature within the view, although the visual resource would predominantly remain as defined by the baseline conditions and the proposed development would not be located within the primary view direction from the viewpoint.

Table 4.9			
<i>Viewpoint: 7</i>	White Caterthun summit		
Figure:	4.15	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	3.92km / 7°
Grid Reference	NO 54816 66090	Elev. of viewpoint	300m +/- 5m acc.
Viewpoint and Users			
<p>The White and Brown Caterthuns are two large Iron Age hill-forts on two neighbouring hilltops on the fringe of the Angus Glens. They can both be visited by short walks from a lay-by on a road between the two, and they offer fine views both towards the glens and over Strathmore. There is a small picnic area at the lay-by. Visitors often visit both summits and spend time walking around the remains of the ramparts. Visitors would probably be likely to be either from the local area and use the hills for a regular walk and enjoy the views, or those who have travelled specifically to investigate the historical nature of the site. There is a rough heather track to the Brown Caterthun summit; and a good path for the short climb to the White Caterthun summit. Both the Brown and White Caterthun hill forts are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.</p>			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
<p>Like Brown Caterthun, it is considered that the primary views are directed out over Strathmore and towards the coast, where Montrose and the Montrose Basin can be readily identified. The hills forming the Angus Glens comprise the visual backdrop, with the moorland and grassland areas distinctly different to the agricultural pattern of the lowland areas. Geometric patterns, evidence of heather management and burning, are clearly seen on the slopes of Brown Caterthun. The nearby summit of Brown Caterthun also forms a key element within the view. The immediate foreground view consists of the rocky, flat summit area of the former Iron Age fort. Below, looking towards the proposed development site, an overhead power line can be seen skirting around the base of Brown Caterthun and then beyond the Hill of Edzell.</p>			
Sensitivity			
The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be high .			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
<p>The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view. These would be seen to full height against the backdrop of the higher rising ground beyond. The proposed turbines would be set low down on the opposite hillside of the valley, where they would be visually separate from the skyline profile and from the main outline of the Hill of Wirren massif, which would remain the prominent visual feature within the view. The proposed turbines would appear more related to the lower valley agricultural slopes than with the higher open moorland hills above. The proposed position of the turbines would be well related to the landscape pattern on the hillside, responding to the change between improved and unimproved pasture. The proposed turbines would also follow the contour across the hill slope, ensuring a balanced, ordered and simple visual composition. Blade movement would be visible.</p>			
Magnitude of Change			
The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be medium , as there would be a considerable change to the characteristics of the view.			

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 3.9km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is high;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be medium;
- The proposed turbines would not compete with the scale and mass of the Hill of Wirren within the view;
- The proposed turbines would be fully backclothed and would not compete with the skyline profile;
- The key view direction is considered to be towards Strathmore and the coast, and not towards the location of the proposed development;
- The proposed turbines would appear as a simple, visually balanced composition and would be well related to the landscape pattern of the valley hillside.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **moderate adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 7, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be a new prominent visual feature within the view, although the visual resource would predominantly remain as defined by the baseline conditions and the proposed development would not be located within the primary view direction from the viewpoint.

Table 4.10

<i>Viewpoint: 8</i>	A90 Lay-by		
Figure:	4.16	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	8.56km / 316°
Grid Reference	NO 61461 63760	Elev. of viewpoint	84m +/- 5m acc

Viewpoint and Users

The viewpoint is located in a lay-by along the southbound carriageway of the A90, the major road route to Aberdeen from the south. Views towards the proposed development from much of the A90 in this part of the study area are screened by roadside vegetation and this stretch of road provides an infrequent opportunity where the proposed development site would be visible. The clear views afforded towards the north along this section of the A90 would be experienced by many passing motorists and passengers, although, because of the fast road speeds, the duration of views would be relatively brief. Additionally, those heading north would have oblique views to their left hand side. The viewpoint is not located within a designated area.

Description of Existing Visual Amenity

Beyond the immediate foreground infrastructure of the A90 dual carriageway, there are clear views out across to the Hill of Wirren massif and surrounding countryside. Undulating arable land, grassy hills, shelterbelts formed by deciduous trees, areas of mixed woodland and coniferous plantations are the predominant features within the middle distance of the view. The skyline is formed by the moorland covered Hill of Wirren and the hills that form the Angus Glens. A few individual small settlements and farm buildings with related structures can be seen, and the overall impression is generally of a working rural landscape. Behind the viewer, the ground rises up steeply and views to the south are curtailed.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be **low**.

Change to the Visual Amenity

The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view, seen fully backclothed against the higher hillsides beyond. One turbine would be seen virtually to full height, with the other been seen from part way up the tower. The location of the proposed turbines would be set well below the skyline profile, and they would be seen as being on the edge of the lowland landscape of the fore and mid-ground in the view, rather than being part of the open moorland hills which form the visually important backdrop to the agricultural landscape of Strathmore. The proposed turbines would form very small-scale new features within a large scale landscape composition, which would be largely unaffected.

Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **low**, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 8.56km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is low;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be low;
- The proposed turbines would form new small-scale elements within the view and would not be out of scale with the wider landscape;
- The proposed turbines would be fully backclothed and would be seen more in proximity to the lowland agricultural landscape than the higher moorland hills beyond;
- The existing skyline profile of the view would be unaffected, and the Hill of Wirren would remain as the most prominent visual feature within the view;
- The view would comprise a short duration oblique view for most passing motorists.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **slight adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 8, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be visible but as a minor feature within the view, and with the visual resource predominantly remaining as defined by the baseline conditions.

Table 4.11

<i>Viewpoint: 9</i>	A90 junction		
Figure:	4.17	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	10.26km / 290°
Grid Reference	NO 65238 66426	Elev. of viewpoint	36m +/- 5m acc

Viewpoint and Users

This viewpoint is located along a minor road, close to the Edzell & Fettercairn junction with the A90. The view would be experienced by users of the local road and visitors to the nearby Dovecot Caravan Park. Drivers and passengers heading southbound on the A90 may also experience some of the view. The viewpoint is not located in a designated area.

Description of Existing Visual Amenity

The view towards the proposed development is across a large open, arable field lined by a deciduous tree belt, behind which is a Forestry Commission plantation. In the north eastern corner of the field, a derelict water tower can be seen, along with some houses and workshop sheds. The distant skyline is formed by the Hill of Wirren. Large steel overhead transmission pylons and smaller wooden pole overhead power line lines are clearly visible in all directions and it is considered that they contribute greatly to the reduced value and sensitivity of this viewpoint. Looking in the opposite direction, to the

north-east, turbines from the Tullo windfarm can be seen on the ridge and skyline.
<p>Sensitivity The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be low.</p>
<p>Change to the Visual Amenity There would be no change to the existing visual amenity of the view, as the proposed turbines would be fully screened by intervening vegetation and would not be visible.</p>
<p>Magnitude of Change The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be none, as there would be no change to the visual resource.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact As the proposed turbines would not be visible and the magnitude of change would therefore be none, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have no effect on the visual amenity of Viewpoint 9.</p>

Table 4.12			
<i>Viewpoint: 10</i>	South of Fettercairn		
Figure:	4.18	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	10.25km / 254°
Grid Reference	NO 65487 72809	Elev. of viewpoint	64m +/- 7m acc
<p>Viewpoint and Users The viewpoint is located along a minor road just to the south of the village of Fettercairn. This viewpoint would be passed by local residents and visitors to Fettercairn, although the view would be an oblique view to those travelling in both directions along the road. The viewpoint is not located in a designated area.</p>			
<p>Description of Existing Visual Amenity Looking towards the proposed development site, the view extends across a series of very open, flat and expansive grass fields, bounded by groups of trees in the middle distance. The skyline is formed by the distant Hill of Wirren and the nearer Sturdy Hill to the north-west, where overhead transmission steel pylons can be seen crossing the lower slopes. The geometric patterns of coniferous plantations are seen throughout the view. Closer to the viewer, and in the periphery of the view, are the typical elements to be found within a rural scene near to a village – telegraph poles, fences, signs, houses and hedges. Looking in the opposite direction, to the north-east, turbines from the Tullo windfarm can be seen.</p>			
<p>Sensitivity The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be low.</p>			
<p>Change to the Visual Amenity The proposed development would appear as a very small section of a single turbine blade tip above an intervening wooded ridgeline. Given the extent of turbine blade which would be visible, and its distance from the viewpoint, it would be barely perceptible.</p>			
<p>Magnitude of Change The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be negligible, as there would be a discernible change to the characteristics of the view.</p>			

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 10.25km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is low;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be negligible;
- Only a very short section of turbine blade tip would be visible, which at 10km distance would be barely perceptible.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have **no effect** at Viewpoint 10, as there would only be a negligible change to the visual character of the view which would be barely perceptible from a viewpoint classed as low sensitivity.

Table 4.13			
<i>Viewpoint: 11</i>	Hill of Finavon fort		
Figure:	4.19	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	14.98km / 17°
Grid Reference	NO 50760 55698	Elev. of viewpoint	206m +/- 5m acc
Viewpoint and Users			
<p>The viewpoint is located on the northern edge of the Iron-Age Finavon hill fort. This roughly rectangular fort is situated on an isolated summit towards the north-east end of Hill of Finavon. It was chosen to be representative of views from the south-west, and unlike the wooded summit on the Hill of Finavon, it offers open views towards the proposed development site. The fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are unlikely to be many visitors to the site - it is not signposted and there are no paths to the summit. As a high fence completely encircles the hill fort summit, the only access is through an awkward gate, along what appears to be a private track.</p>			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
<p>From this commanding viewpoint, there are good distant views to the north-west through to the north and the east. The main direction of the view is looking northwards, where the two main distinctive landscape character types of the Angus Glens and the Lowland and Hills can be clearly seen. In the foreground, the rich tapestry of undulating, arable farmland can be seen stretching out to the backdrop formed by the unimproved moorland hills. Glimpses of the River South Esk can be seen through the riparian woodlands along its banks, whilst the A90 corridor can be clearly seen cutting through the view. Items of specific visual interest include the stately home of Finavon Castle, nestled in woodlands near the A90 and almost due north is a single turbine in the middle distance on the foothills to the Glens. Behind the viewer, about 500m away, steel pylons and cables for an overhead power line can be clearly seen and nearby, partially screened by intervening trees, is a telecommunications mast. Long distance views to the south and south-west are generally curtailed by intervening topography.</p>			
Sensitivity			
The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be medium .			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
The proposed development would introduce a very small section of a single blade tip into the view, above an intervening ridgeline. The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development site and the limited extent of turbine blade which would be visible would result in the proposed development being barely perceptible, and the change to the visual character of the view would be negligible.			
Magnitude of Change			
The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be negligible , as there would be a			

discernible change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 14.98km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is high;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be negligible;
- Only a very short section of turbine blade tip would be visible, which at almost 15km distance would be barely perceptible.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have **no effect** at Viewpoint 11, as there would only be a negligible change to the visual character of the view which would be barely perceptible.

Table 4.14			
<i>Viewpoint: 12</i>	Bridgend road junction		
Figure:	4.20	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	2.65km / 41°
Grid Reference	NO 53583 68005	Elev. of viewpoint	154m +/- 5m acc
Viewpoint and Users			
The viewpoint is located at the junction between two minor roads to the west of the proposed development site. Views from this viewpoint would be experienced primarily by local residents, heading east towards Bridgend village and school, which is situated in the valley below. The viewpoint is not located in a designated area.			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
Looking eastwards, the view is across the wooded valley of the West Water, framed by local hills such as the Brown and White Caterthuns to the south and the Hill of Formal to the north rising gently up from the valley floor. An overhead transmission line runs east-west along the valley floor. Nearby farmsteads and isolated houses, blocks of coniferous trees, fences and farm outbuildings all contribute to the general rural nature of the scene.			
Sensitivity			
The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be high .			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view, seen as new skyline features above a grouping of small woods and tree belts. The proposed turbines would appear as a small-scale, simple grouping, with no overlapping of turbine blades. The proposed turbines would be visible on and above the lower hill slopes, and would appear to be more related to the improved pastures of the lower valley sides within the view, rather than the higher more open moorland hills above. Blade movement would be visible, and would be likely to result in the turbines becoming a new visual focus in the view. The proposed turbines would appear as new industrial objects on a currently undeveloped rural skyline.			
Magnitude of Change			
The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be medium , as there would be a considerable change to the characteristics of the view.			

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 2.65km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is medium;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be medium;
- The proposed turbines would appear as skylined features, and would be likely to become a new visual focus in the view.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **moderate adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 12, as the proposed wind cluster would be likely to become a new visual focus within the view.

Table 4.15			
<i>Viewpoint: 13</i>	Minor road west of Caterthuns – Tullo Farm		
Figure:	4.21	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	3.5km / 27°
Grid Reference	NO 53743 66863	Elev. of viewpoint	177m +/- 6m acc
Viewpoint and Users			
The viewpoint is located along a steep minor road to the south-west of the proposed development site. Views from this viewpoint would be experienced primarily by local residents, heading north-east towards Bridgend, or possibly by visitors to the Brown and White Caterthuns. The viewpoint is not located in a designated area.			
Description of Existing Visual Amenity			
The relatively elevated viewpoint provides good open views along the Paphrie Burn and West Water valleys, where the distinctive landscape pattern of tree belts and improved grasslands provide a strong contrast to the tree-less moorland and unimproved grassy slopes of the Hill of Wirren massif which forms the backdrop to the view. Isolated houses, tracks and fences add to the general rural character of the view, although an overhead transmission line which runs along the West Water valley and crosses the mid-ground of the view detracts from the overall quality of the view. Behind the viewer, looking south, views are curtailed by the steepness of the road, although to the east and south-east, the summits of Brown and White Caterthuns are both clearly seen.			
Sensitivity			
The sensitivity of the visual resource is considered to be medium .			
Change to the Visual Amenity			
The proposed development would introduce two turbines into the view, seen to full height against a backcloth of higher ground beyond.			
The proposed turbines would be set low down on the side of the valley, where they would be visually separate from the skyline profile and from the main outline of the Hill of Wirren massif. The proposed turbines would appear more related to the lower valley agricultural slopes than with the higher open moorland hills above. The proposed position of the turbines would be well related to the landscape pattern of tree belts and improved pastures on the lower hillsides, clearly appearing as part of this pattern rather than of the open moorland hills above. The proposed turbines would also follow the contour across the hill slope, ensuring a balanced, ordered and simple visual composition. Blade movement would be visible.			
Magnitude of Change			
The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be medium , as there would be a			

considerable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The distance to the proposed visible turbine would be 3.5km;
- The sensitivity of the viewpoint is medium;
- The magnitude of change is considered to be medium;
- The proposed turbines would not compete with the scale and mass of the Hill of Wirren within the view;
- The proposed turbines would be fully backclothed and would not compete with the skyline profile;
- The proposed turbines would appear as a simple, visually balanced composition and would be well related to the landscape pattern of the valley hillside.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **moderate adverse** visual impact at Viewpoint 13, as the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would be a new prominent visual feature within the view, although the visual resource would predominantly remain as defined by the baseline conditions.

Summary Table

4.6.8 A summary of the visual impact of the proposal on the selected viewpoints is presented in Table 4.16 below. Note that Moderate and Substantial Effects are considered to be significant.

VP No	Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Assessment of Impact
1	Pirner's Brig picnic site car park	High	Low	Slight Adverse
2	Edzell Castle Gardens	High	None	No Effect
3	Edzell – western edge	High	Low	Slight Adverse
4	Inchbare – western edge	High	Low	Slight Adverse
5	Minor road SW of Edzell, at junction with path	Medium	Low	Slight Adverse
6	Brown Caterthun summit	High	Medium	Moderate Adverse
7	White Caterthun summit	High	Medium	Moderate Adverse
8	A90 Lay-by	Low	Low	Slight Adverse
9	A90 junction	Low	None	No Effect
10	South of Fettercairn	Low	Negligible	No Effect
11	Hill of Finavon fort	Medium	Negligible	No Effect
12	Bridgend road junction	High	Medium	Moderate Adverse
13	Minor road west of Caterthuns – Tullo Farm	Medium	Medium	Moderate Adverse

Visual Impact on Settlements

4.6.9 The ZTV plans indicate that the main settlements of Edzell, Brechin and Laurencekirk within the 20km Study Area would be predominantly unaffected by the introduction of the proposed wind cluster. Brechin would have no theoretical visibility with the proposal and would be unaffected. Existing tree groups would limited views form Edzell to the western periphery – refer to Viewpoint 3 for a detailed visual impact assessment. Theoretical visibility at Laurencekirk would be limited to a small section of one turbine blade, although intervening tree groups would tend to substantially screen this, resulting in virtually no theoretical visibility.

4.6.10 Smaller settlements such as Inchbare and Luthermuir would have very limited theoretical visibility with the proposal, due to the screening effect of intervening tree groups.

4.6.11 Any visual impacts on settlements within the Study Area are considered to be slight-negligible, and not significant.

Visual Impact on Individual Local Properties

4.6.12 A detailed assessment of the visual impact of the proposal on local residential properties within 2km is presented in the report on Impact on Residential Amenity. The large majority of properties face away from the direction of the proposal, and would not have direct views from principle rooms towards the proposal. Intervening boundary plantings and other buildings tend to screen views from the curtilage of properties.

Sequential Assessment

4.6.13 Road users are the most likely receptor type to experience visual impacts of windfarm developments, predominantly as sequential impacts, experienced whilst travelling through the landscape. Whilst cyclists may be considered more sensitive to landscape than most vehicle drivers, it is the latter that represent the highest number of receptors and experience the widest areas in the shortest period of time. This assessment therefore concentrates on vehicle drivers.

A90 Trunk Route (Dundee to Aberdeen)

4.6.14 The principal trunk route passing through Angus is the A90, linking Dundee with Aberdeen. This road passes inland north from Dundee, passing Forfar and Brechin and continuing along the Lower Esk Valley and then north-eastwards into Aberdeenshire.

4.6.15 Theoretical visibility of the proposed wind cluster would be limited to the section of the A90 north-east of Brechin, extending to the 20km Study Area boundary. Theoretical visibility beyond the 20km boundary quickly becomes fragmented before disappearing completely. Figure 4.5 indicates that existing tree cover would partially fragment the extent of theoretical visibility along the route, although there would be reasonably long periods of visibility. For a detailed visual impact assessment from the A90, refer to Viewpoints 8 and 9.

4.6.16 Currently along the A90, views of existing windfarms are limited. In the vicinity of Forfar, Mid Hill Windfarm is visible peripherally and at distance to the north-west. North and east of Forfar the A90 passes through the broad Lower Esk Valley, and whilst there is extensive east-west visibility and visibility of the uplands to the north and west, this is often limited by roadside trees. A single turbine development on the south-east side of the Menmuir Ridge is occasionally visible peripherally but does not form a prominent feature. Tullo Windfarm in Aberdeenshire is visible to the east from in the vicinity of Laurencekirk, at distances of c3-8km.

4.6.17 Travelling northwards, the first available views of the proposed wind cluster would be from just north of Brechin, where the turbines would be visible peripherally at distances in excess of 8km as small-scale features seen against the backdrop of the higher hills to the north. As the traveller progresses northwards, the turbines would become progressively behind the direction of travel and would not be seen in the main direction of travel. Any visual impacts would be slight adverse –negligible, and not significant.

4.6.18 When travelling southwards, the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible in the vicinity of Laurencekirk, although the combination of trees and buildings screens most views from the A90 in this area. South of Laurencekirk, sections of visibility would alternate with areas screened by intervening tree groups. Where visible, the proposed turbines would be peripheral to the main direction of travel, seen as

a small group set against the larger scale and higher backdrop of the Hill of Wirren. The introduction of the proposed turbines would not compromise the skyline profile of the Hill of Wirren, as they would be set low down well below the skyline profile, where they would not form prominent features. Any visual impacts would be slight adverse, and not significant.

4.6.19 When travelling along the A90 through Angus, visibility of windfarms would be intermittent and mostly distant, with existing developments and the proposed wind cluster separated by reasonable distances along the route. The introduction of the proposed wind cluster would not form a major new visual feature of the character of the route, appearing only as a discrete small-scale element within broader distant views, and travellers on the A90 would only experience a '*Landscape with Occasional Windfarms*' character.

B966 – Brechin to Edzell

4.6.20 The B966 forms the main route between Brechin and Edzell and which falls within the theoretical visibility spread of the proposed wind cluster. Currently, there are no views of windfarms along this route. Whilst there would be no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from within and beyond the northern edge of Brechin, theoretical visibility is indicated along most of the route towards Edzell. Figure 4.5 indicates that this pattern of theoretical visibility would be considerably fragmented by existing tree cover.

4.6.21 When travelling northwards, visibility would be fragmented by agricultural tree belts and small woods, with views northwestwards across fields to the turbines which would generally appear as blade tips above the intervening Hill of Lundie ridgeline. The skyline profiles of the higher hills to the north would not be affected. Edzell Wood then provides full screening of the proposed wind cluster on the approach into Edzell. Any visual impacts would be slight adverse, and not significant.

4.6.22 When travelling southwards from Edzell, the proposed wind cluster would be entirely behind the direction of travel and would not be visible, and consequently, there would be no visual impacts.

National Cycle Route 1

4.6.23 NCR 1 lies at the very eastern periphery of the 20km Study Area where it passes through Montrose, and is indicated as having no theoretical visibility with the proposed turbines. It would therefore be unaffected.

Core Paths

4.6.24 The Core Path which extends along the River North Esk would be unaffected due to the intervening screening of landform and vegetation.

4.6.25 Core Paths on the western side of Edzell would have theoretical visibility with the proposed turbines, although field boundary tree cover would tend to considerably limit the availability of views – see Viewpoints 3 and 5 for detailed impact assessments. Core Paths on the eastern and southern side of Edzell would be unaffected due to the intervening screening of landform and vegetation, particularly Edzell Wood.

4.6.26 Core Paths around Brechin would either have no theoretical visibility with the proposed turbines, or existing tree cover would considerably limit the extent of turbines which would be visible, such that any impact would be slight or negligible.

4.7 Scope for and Mitigation Measures

4.7.1 A comprehensive design development process has accompanied the preparation of the layout of the proposed Lower Cairny Wind Cluster. This process has from the outset aimed to prevent, reduce and, where possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the landscape resource and visual amenity, through consideration of the general siting and layout of the development, turbine size and arrangement and their visual composition from key viewpoints.

4.7.2 The introduction of the proposed wind cluster into the '*Highland Foothills*' landscape type would inevitably result in considerable landscape and visual change to the area and some associated significant adverse impacts on landscape character and visual amenity. Whilst some of these significant impacts relate to the development site itself, its immediate setting and the landscape character area in which it is located, others specifically relate to the '*West Water Valley*' landscape unit of the '*Mid Highland Glens*'

landscape type, due to its close proximity of the wind cluster and the enclosed nature of the valley topography, where visibility of the proposed wind cluster could not be avoided or reduced. Therefore, in order to minimise any potential adverse visual impacts, a design process was undertaken which aimed to achieve a clarity and simplicity of visual image and balance of compositional layout from a range of selected viewpoints, both in terms of the overall layout and the detailed arrangement of turbines, the selection of turbine height to relate to the scale of the receiving landscape, whilst seeking to keep the turbines as low as possible on the site to avoid any compromising of the skyline of the hills to the north when seen from the wider lowland agricultural landscape to the south and east. This process has ensured that the proposal has achieved the best design integration with the visual character and amenity of the site, its surroundings and the Study Area.

4.7.3 Four of the selected viewpoints for visual assessment have been identified as having moderate adverse impacts on visual amenity resulting from the introduction of the proposed development, and which are considered to be significant, predominantly due to their close proximity to the development site and the high sensitivity of viewers. It is not considered that any further modifications to the turbine layout and appearance of the proposed development could reduce these impacts to a level which is considered to be not significant. Consequently, the residual impacts on the visual amenity of selected viewpoints are as outlined in Table 4.16.

4.7.4 Despite identifying an overall limited number of significant landscape and visual impacts as a result of the introduction of the proposed wind farm, it is considered that there are no further mitigation measures that would be practical and achievable to reduce these impacts to a level which would be considered as not significant, whilst ensuring that the project remained economically viable.

4.8 Assessment of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact

Introduction and Scope

4.8.1 This section considers the potential for cumulative landscape and visual impacts resulting from the introduction of the proposed wind energy cluster, in association with other known wind energy proposals as of October 2012.

4.8.2 The underlying premise of the cumulative assessment is to consider the additional cumulative landscape and visual impact which the introduction of the proposal would have on a range of landscape and visual considerations, assuming that all other wind farm projects were to be realised. In this respect, it therefore focuses on the additional areas of theoretical visibility which would occur from the introduction of the proposal outwith the extent of the cumulative visibility pattern of other projects, together with any areas of combined theoretical visibility which would occur from the proposed development with these other projects. It therefore follows that no cumulative impact could occur from the proposal in areas where it would not be theoretically visible in its own right, and this determines the nature and scope of the cumulative assessment.

4.8.3 Cumulative impact assessment guidance recommends that the cumulative assessment should concentrate on the developments which are considered most likely to cause significant cumulative impacts with the proposal. Consequently, the cumulative assessment only considers other wind farm projects within a 50km radius of the proposed wind farm, which is twice the radius of the 25km study area for the proposed development in isolation. This study area radius is considered appropriate to determine the likelihood of any significant cumulative impacts which might arise from the introduction of the proposed development. Consideration has been given within the cumulative assessment to other projects which are operational, consented and proposed projects for which a formal planning application has been submitted, in accordance with accepted guidance.

4.8.4 The cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment will consider the following issues:

- Establishing the cumulative baseline conditions of wind farm development within a radius of 50km of the proposal site for projects comprising of turbine heights of 50m and above. These wind farms are indicated on Figure 4.22, together with their status;
- Establishing the cumulative baseline conditions of wind farm development within a radius of 25km of the proposal site for projects comprising of turbine heights of 25-50m. These wind farms are indicated on Figures 4.23 and 4.24, together with their status. This assessment will concentrate on those projects within the 25km radius as being those most likely to give rise to cumulative impacts in combination with the proposal;
- Specific consideration will be given to any projects of less than 50m turbine height where they are located within 5km of the proposal site, although it is considered that it is unlikely that the

introduction of the proposal would be likely to result in significant impacts with turbines of that height;

- Consideration of the scale, pattern and spatial distribution of operational, consented and planning application proposals of 50m turbine heights and above, to determine the scope and extent of the cumulative assessment;
- Determining the cumulative magnitude of change to the landscape resource and visual amenity baseline conditions resulting from the introduction of the proposal, in relation to the scale, pattern and extent of other wind farm development within the Study Area;
- Determining the nature and significance of any likely cumulative effects on the landscape resource and visual amenity baseline conditions, resulting from the changes identified.

4.8.5 Considering the geographic distribution of wind energy developments of 50m turbine height and above within the 50km Study Area boundary, as shown on Figure 4.22, a distinct pattern of ‘clustering’ of separate developments within generalised geographic areas can be determined, and this geographic pattern will be used to consider the likely cumulative impact of the proposal in association with each of these separate geographic clusters. The various geographic clusters can be defined as:

- A cluster to the west and south-west of Stonehaven – reference Cluster 1
- A cluster in the vicinity of Laurencekirk – reference Cluster 2
- A cluster to the west and east of Brechin – reference Cluster 3
- A cluster generally equidistant from Forfar, Montrose and Arbroath – reference Cluster 4
- A cluster to the south of Forfar – reference Cluster 5
- The Nathro Hill proposal, which, due to its scale and close proximity to the proposal site, will be considered as an individual project.

4.8.6 For each of these clusters, for simplicity of preparing and interpreting cumulative ZTV plans, the constituent projects within each cluster will be combined as a single development proposal, rather than represented as individual projects, to determine their collective spread of theoretical visibility. These composite ZTVs, prepared using information on turbine heights and layouts for the wind farms involved, will be combined with that of the proposal.

4.8.7 These cumulative ZTVs will use as their basis only the theoretical visibility of any wind turbines within the wind farm, rather than an indication of how many turbines would be theoretically visible. The

overlap of these ZTVs reveal patterns of theoretical visibility that enable the identification of locations from where the proposal may be seen in combination with other existing, consented or proposed development, or where the proposal introduces additional areas of theoretical visibility of wind turbines within the study area. Consequently, where combined theoretical visibility is indicated, this means that a viewer at that location would theoretically be able to see some part of both the proposed wind energy cluster and some of the other identified wind farms. However, this information does not indicate how many turbines from each wind farm would be theoretically visible, nor the visible extent of the turbines or their appearance, and therefore represents a 'worst case' scenario regarding the extent of cumulative visibility.

4.8.8 Given the considerable number of projects of 25-50m turbine height within a 25km radius of the proposal site, these projects will be plotted as a single ZTV, where the number of turbines visible at any point will be grouped into different bands i.e. 1-4 turbines, 5-8 turbines etc. The ZTV of the proposal will be overlaid onto this composite ZTV as a hatch to identify those locations where the proposal would introduce additional levels of turbine visibility. This assessment will concentrate on a 15km detailed Study Area where it is considered that significant impacts would be most likely to occur.

4.8.9 The ZTVs produced for the cumulative assessment do not take into account the potential screening effect of buildings, trees or other surface obstacles. Additionally, the ZTVs produced represent the theoretical visibility of the turbine tips only. In these respects, they represent the worst-case scenario of cumulative visibility.

Analysis of Cumulative ZTV Plans

In Combination with Cluster 1 (Figure 4.25)

4.8.10 The cluster to the south-west of Stonehaven has an extensive although fragmented ZTV spread which covers large parts of the lowland area of Angus. The addition of Lower Cairny would result in limited additional areas of theoretical visibility being added to the overall ZTV pattern, limited mostly to the immediate area around the proposal site in the West Water Valley and sections along the Highland Boundary Fault to the north-east, along with very limited areas within the lowlands of Angus. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to some further intensification of the visibility of turbines from areas predominantly within the lowlands of Angus which would have visibility with the Cluster 1 windfarms.

4.8.11 Given the above, it is considered that the proposed wind cluster would have a negligible cumulative change to the theoretical visibility spread and that any cumulative impact would be slight adverse at most in combination with the Cluster 1 windfarms to the south-west of Stonehaven.

In Combination with Cluster 2 (Figure 4.26)

4.8.12 The cluster in the vicinity of Laurencekirk has an extensive ZTV spread which covers much of lowland Angus and is predominantly contained by the Highland Boundary Fault line to the north. The addition of Lower Cairny would result in limited additional areas of theoretical visibility being added to the overall ZTV pattern, limited mostly to the immediate area around the proposal site in the West Water Valley and sections along the Highland Boundary Fault to the north-east, along with very limited areas within the lowlands of Angus. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to some further intensification of the visibility of turbines from areas predominantly within the lowlands of Angus with the Cluster 2 windfarms.

4.8.13 Given the above, it is considered that the proposed wind cluster would have a negligible cumulative change to the theoretical visibility spread and that any cumulative impact would be slight adverse at most in combination with the Cluster 2 windfarms in the vicinity of Laurencekirk.

In Combination with Cluster 3 (Figure 4.27)

4.8.14 The cluster to the west and east of Brechin has an extensive ZTV pattern which covers much of lowland Angus and is generally contained by the Highland Boundary Fault to the north and north-west. The addition of Lower Cairny would add some limited additional areas of theoretical visibility, predominantly in the West Water Valley close to the proposed site and in the area to the north of Logie Pert. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to some further intensification of the visibility of turbines from areas predominantly within the lowlands of Angus with the Cluster 3 windfarms.

4.8.15 Given the above, it is considered that the proposed wind cluster would have a low cumulative change to the theoretical visibility spread and that any cumulative impact would be slight adverse in combination with the Cluster 3 windfarms to the west and east of Brechin.

In Combination with Cluster 4 (Figure 4.28)

4.8.16 The cluster generally equidistant from Forfar, Montrose and Arbroath has a generally fragmented pattern of theoretical visibility, which extends through much of the Study Area. The addition of Lower Cairny would extend the pattern of theoretical visibility of turbines within the Study Area, particularly in the West Water Valley, the central lowland area between Brechin and Laurencekirk and along the A90 corridor north of Laurencekirk. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to limited intensification of the visibility of turbines from areas predominantly within the lowlands of Angus and along the Highland Boundary Fault with the Cluster 4 windfarms.

4.8.17 Given the above, it is considered that the proposed wind cluster would have a low cumulative change to the theoretical visibility spread and that any cumulative impact would be slight adverse in combination with the Cluster 4 windfarms in the vicinity of Forfar, Montrose and Arbroath.

In Combination with Cluster 5 (Figure 4.29)

4.8.18 The cluster to the south of Forfar has an extensive spread of theoretical visibility through much of the southern and central section of the Study Area. The addition of Lower Cairny would extend the pattern of theoretical visibility within the Study Area, particularly in the West Water Valley, the central lowland area north of Brechin, an area south of Montrose and to the north of Arbroath near Leysmill. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to limited intensification of the visibility of turbines predominantly from areas in the vicinity of Laurencekirk and Fettercairn with the Cluster 5 windfarms.

In Combination with Nathro Hill (Figure 4.30)

4.8.19 Nathro Hill indicates a very extensive spread of theoretical visibility throughout the Study Area, with almost complete coverage of the lowland area of Angus and extending northwards into the higher remoter areas of the Highland region of Angus. The addition of Lower Cairny would result in a very limited increase in area where turbines would be visible, limited to small areas in the local vicinity of the proposal site. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to some intensification of the visibility of turbines within the lowland area of Angus and in areas along the Highland Boundary Fault.

4.8.20 Given the above, it is considered that the proposed wind cluster would have a negligible cumulative change to the theoretical visibility spread and that any cumulative impact would be slight adverse at most in combination with the Nathro Hill proposal.

In Combination with Turbine Heights of 25-50m (Figures 4.31 and 4.32)

4.8.21 Figure 4.31 indicates the ZTV pattern of the approved projects/turbines throughout the 15km detailed Study Area, with the ZTV pattern of Lower Cairny overlaid. This indicates the extensive spread of theoretical visibility of approved turbines throughout the south-eastern section of the detailed Study Area, with the large majority of lowland Angus indicating theoretical visibility with various numbers of turbines and with few areas having no theoretical visibility of turbines, and with more limited theoretical visibility throughout the north-eastern section. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to a very slight increase in the overall extent of area of theoretical visibility of turbines throughout the detailed Study Area. Most of the area of the ZTV pattern of Lower Cairny would have theoretical visibility with varying numbers of turbines, predominantly in the range of 1-8 turbines visible.

4.8.22 Figure 4.32 indicates the ZTV pattern of the approved and application projects/turbines throughout the 15km detailed Study Area, with the ZTV pattern of Lower Cairny overlaid. This indicates a similar overall spread of theoretical visibility throughout the detailed Study Area to that of Figure 4.31, but with greater numbers of turbines being visible. The addition of Lower Cairny would lead to a very slight increase in the overall extent of area of theoretical visibility of turbines throughout the detailed Study Area. Most of the area of the ZTV pattern of Lower Cairny would have theoretical visibility with varying numbers of turbines, predominantly in the range of 9-16 turbines visible.

4.8.23 Given the above, it is considered that the proposed wind cluster would have a negligible cumulative change to the theoretical visibility spread and that any cumulative impact would be slight adverse at most in combination with the 25-50m approved and application projects/turbines.

In Combination with Turbine Heights of 25-50m within 5km

4.8.24 Within 5km of the Lower Cairny site, there would be two proposed projects, comprising a single 46m turbine at Chapleton of Menmuir and another single 46m turbine at Balrennie Farm. These would lie on the southern side of the Menmuir ridge and would therefore be physically and predominantly visually separate from Lower Cairny which lies to the north on the lower slopes of Hill of Wirren, although there would be some inter-visibility of both developments from locations along the intervening Menmuir ridge and from areas to the east of Edzell. However, it is considered that wind turbines would not become a prominent characteristic of the local area within 5km of the Lower Cairny site following is introduction

and that any cumulative impact of these separate developments on the local landscape and visual character would be slight adverse at most. Opportunities to see both the proposal and the two single turbines simultaneously from local residential properties would be very limited and it is likely that intervening tree groups would restrict this further, such that any impact on residential amenity would be negligible. Whilst Lower Cairny and the two single turbines would be visible from the Caterthuns, they would be seen in different directions and not within the same arc of view. In views towards the Caterthuns, there would be limited opportunities to see the different developments within the same view, and given the relative heights and distances of the turbines from the hillforts, it is considered that the Caterthuns will remain a dominant element in the landscape.

Summary

4.8.25 Consideration has been given to the combination of the proposed wind energy cluster with other wind farm projects and individual turbines within the surrounding area, in order to assess levels of cumulative impact throughout the Study Area. Generally this assessment has concluded that the introduction of the proposed wind energy project would have limited areas of cumulative theoretical visibility with these other proposals, or would contribute little to the further increase in the extent and pattern visibility of wind turbines throughout the Study Area.

Cumulative Landscape Character Impacts

4.8.26 The proposed Lower Cairny Wind Energy Cluster would not be located within the same landscape character unit as any other existing, consented or application projects, and therefore the issue of potential cumulative landscape character impacts on the 'Edzell Foothills' landscape unit would not arise. Consequently, in spatial design terms, in relation to existing wind energy development within the Study Area, the proposed site occupies a site which is generally physically and visually separate from other operational and consented wind farm developments. This spatial arrangement would allow the proposed wind energy cluster to be adequately differentiated as a clearly separate wind energy development from existing operational and consented wind farms within the Study Area.

4.8.27 The proposed Nathro Hill wind farm would be located within the '*Muckle Cairn/Hill of Glansie/Hill of Wirren*' unit of the Highland Summit and Plateaux landscape type, in the area to the west of the '*West Water Valley*' unit of the Mid Highland Glens landscape type. The scale of the Nathro Hill proposal, comprising of 17 turbines at 134m blade tip height, represents a considerable wind energy development,

where it would be likely to have extensive and adverse landscape character impacts on not only the landscape unit in which it is located but also on adjacent, smaller scale landscape units such as the 'West Water Valley'. It is considered that the addition of Lower Cairny to the Nathro Hill proposal would result in a negligible cumulative change to the 'Muckle Cairn/Hill of Glansie/Hill of Wirren' unit of the Highland Summit and Plateaux landscape type, and a low cumulative change on the 'West Water Valley' landscape unit, and therefore any cumulative impact on these landscape units resulting from the introduction of Lower Cairny would be slight adverse in combination with Nathro Hill.

4.8.28 Given the extensive number and visibility spread of operational, consented and application projects throughout the Study Area, the addition of Lower Cairny would have a negligible cumulative change to the landscape character units throughout the Study Area, and any cumulative impact on landscape character would be slight adverse at most.

Cumulative Visual Impact at Selected Viewpoints

4.8.29 The selected viewpoints used in the visual assessment as identified in Table 4.2 above were also considered in relation to cumulative visual impacts, by considering their location in relation to the patterns of cumulative visibility indicated on the cumulative ZTV maps. These cumulative ZTV maps indicate that all of the originally selected viewpoints for visual assessment would have some degree of cumulative theoretical visibility with other projects included in the cumulative assessment, and therefore would be likely to be subject to cumulative impacts resulting from the introduction of the proposed wind energy cluster.

4.8.30 360° cumulative wireline visualisations were generated for the selected viewpoints. These wirelines assisted in identifying the number and extent of wind farms/turbines that would be theoretically visible from each viewpoint. It should be noted that for each of these viewpoints, their location, baseline conditions and sensitivity of the resource is as previously described within the visual impact assessment for the individual proposed wind energy cluster. The assessments assume that the other existing, consented and proposed wind farms/turbines are all present, and the cumulative change to visual amenity results from the introduction of the Lower Cairny Wind Energy Cluster. Where the assessment of impact of Lower Cairny in isolation has previously concluded that there would be no impact, the proposed development could therefore have no cumulative impact and therefore cumulative

wirelines are not presented for these viewpoints, although an assessment of cumulative impact is included for completeness.

4.8.31 Tables 4.17 to 4.29 below identify the cumulative impacts from each of the selected cumulative viewpoints.

Table 4.17			
<i>Viewpoint: 1</i>	Pirner's Brig picnic site car park		
Figure:	4.33	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	2.47km / 295°
Grid Reference	NO 57821 68931	Elev. of viewpoint	77m +/- 6m acc.
Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity			
<p>From this viewpoint, several of the proposed Nathro Hill turbines would be visible, seen predominantly as blades above the skyline horizon, where they would be seen appearing and disappearing above the skyline, and tending to draw the eye towards them. The single Lower Cairny turbine which would be visible from the viewpoint would be seen within the same general arc of view as the Nathro Hill turbines, and, due to its closer location to the viewpoint, would appear as a separate wind energy development. The combination of the two wind energy developments would not dominate the view and wind turbines would not become a key characteristic of the view. A small section of a turbine blade tip is indicated to the south-west of the Menmuir Ridge but would be likely to be fully screened by intervening vegetation and would not contribute to any potential cumulative impact.</p>			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change			
<p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be low, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.</p>			
Assessment of Cumulative Impact			
<p>The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nathro Hill turbines would not form a key characteristic of the view; • The addition of the Lower Cairny turbines would not result in turbines becoming a key characteristic of the view; • Whilst the two wind energy developments would be seen in visual combination, they would not dominate the view; • The sensitivity of the viewpoint is medium; • The magnitude of cumulative change is considered to be low. <p>Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of Lower Cairny would have a slight adverse cumulative visual impact at Viewpoint 1.</p>			

Table 4.18			
<i>Viewpoint: 2</i>	Edzell Castle Gardens		
Figure:	N/A	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	2.98km / 287°
Grid Reference	NO 58442 69101	Elev. of viewpoint	75m +/- 10m acc
Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity			

Only a few very small turbine blade tips would be visible from the viewpoint at considerable distances, where they would not form a key characteristic of the view.

The introduction of Lower Cairny would not change the existing view, as the proposed turbines would be fully screened from view by intervening topography and vegetation.

Cumulative Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **none**, as there would be no additional change to the visual resource resulting from the introduction of Lower Cairny.

Assessment of Cumulative Impact

As the proposed turbines of Lower Cairny would not be visible, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have **no cumulative effect** on the visual amenity of Viewpoint 2.

Table 4.19

<i>Viewpoint: 3</i>	Edzell – western edge		
Figure:	4.34	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	4.30km / 285°
Grid Reference	NO 59750 68826	Elev. of viewpoint	62m +/- 5m acc

Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity

Nathro Hill would form a visually dominant feature within the view, with its large number of turbines appearing as a large-scale skyline feature of visual complexity. Several small-scale single wind turbines would appear to the immediate south of the Menmuir Ridge and which would break the skyline to varying degrees, although they are likely to be predominantly screened by intervening tree cover and would be associated with the lowland landscape to the south. Other windfarm developments would be visible at distance as small-scale skyline features to the north-east, where they would not form prominent features within the view. Several other turbines would appear at considerable distances to the south and south-west as very small sections of blade tips above the distant horizon, where they would not form a key characteristic of the view. Whilst Lower Cairny would be seen in visual combination with Nathro Hill, its reduced level of visibility due to intervening forestry would result in limited changes to the character of the view.

Cumulative Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **low**, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Cumulative Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The Nathro Hill windfarm would form a dominant visual feature within the view and wind turbines would be a key characteristic of the existing view;
- Other wind turbines would be visible to varying degrees in different directions
- The addition of Lower Cairny would result in limited change to the character of the view.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **slight adverse cumulative** visual impact at Viewpoint 3.

Table 4.20

<i>Viewpoint: 4</i>	Inchbare – western edge		
Figure:	4.35	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	6.59km / 312°

Grid Reference	NO 60481 65575	Elev. of viewpoint	55m +/- 8m acc
Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity			
<p>A grouping of windfarms and individual turbines would be visible to the north-east, with the existing Tullo Farm development forming a noticeable skyline feature, although they collectively would not form a prominent feature of the existing view. The Nathro Hill windfarm would form a prominent skyline cluster of turbines which would tend to draw the eye towards them as a visual focus, as they interrupt the overall skyline profile as it descends from the Hill of Wirren massif to the lowlands. Two other small scale wind turbines would be visible within the same arc of view as Nathro Hill and would form locally prominent features due to their close proximity. Several other turbines would be visible to the south-west but they would form small-scale features within the view. Lower Cairny would be likely to be seen in the same arc of view as Nathro Hill and the small scale turbines at Cairndrum Farm, Balrennie Farm and Chapelton, but would be located low against the backdrop of the higher hills beyond, partially screened by intervening topography and tree cover and being fully backclothed would result in limited change to the character of the view. Nathro Hill would continue to form the key visual feature within the view.</p>			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change			
<p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be low, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.</p>			

Assessment of Cumulative Impact	
<p>The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nathro Hill windfarm would form a prominent skyline feature within the existing view and would act as a visual focus; • Small-scale wind turbines would form a locally prominent characteristic of the view; • The addition of Lower Cairny would result in limited change to the character of the view and would not add to the number of turbines on the skyline profile. <p>Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a slight adverse cumulative visual impact at Viewpoint 4.</p>	

Table 4.21			
<i>Viewpoint: 5</i>	Minor road SW of Edzell, at junction with path		
Figure:	4.36	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	4.37km / 294°
Grid Reference	NO 59575 68194	Elev. of viewpoint	59m +/- 5m acc
Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity			
<p>Tullo Farm windfarm would be visible to the north-east as a skyline feature, although it would not form a prominent feature of the view. Nathro Hill windfarm would appear as a prominent skyline feature, due to the dense complex clustering of its turbines and its elevated location. Several small-scale single wind turbines would appear to the immediate south of the Menmuir Ridge and which would break the skyline to varying degrees, although they are likely to be predominantly screened by intervening tree cover and would be associated with the lowland landscape to the south. And they would be unlikely to be seen within the same arc of view as Lower Cairny. Lower Cairny would be seen in the same arc of view as Nathro Hill, but would be set low down from the skyline and fully backclothed, and would appear as a clearly separate wind energy development.</p>			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change			

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **low**, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Cumulative Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- The Nathro Hill windfarm would form a prominent skyline feature within the existing view and would act as a visual focus;
- The addition of Lower Cairny would result in limited change to the character of the view and would not add to the number of turbines on the skyline profile.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **slight adverse cumulative** visual impact at Viewpoint 5.

Table 4.22

<i>Viewpoint: 6</i>	Brown Caterthun summit		
Figure:	4.37	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	3.07km / 356°
Grid Reference	NO 55547 66906	Elev. of viewpoint	292m +/- 5m acc

Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity

Operational and other application projects would be seen in various directions and at various distances from the viewpoint. Nathro Hill would form a prominent skyline feature to the north-west, whilst to the west two windfarms at Kilcaldrum and Lumleyden would be visible as dispersed skyline features. Tullo Farm would be visible as a skyline feature to the north-east and a few individual small-scale turbines would be visible throughout the lowland agricultural landscape to the south-east and south, several being located within 2km to the east in the vicinity of Balrennie and Chapelton of Menmuir. Wind turbines would be a characteristic of the existing view, although the Nathro Hill windfarm would form the most prominent feature within the view due to its proximity and skyline location, and where it would compete with the visual prominence of the Hill of Wirren skyline. Lower Cairny would not be seen in the same arc of view as the other wind energy developments within the view, and would introduce wind turbines into a part of the view where they are not currently present.

Cumulative Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **medium**, as there would be a considerable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Cumulative Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- Wind turbines would form a characteristic of the existing view, and would be visible in various directions;
- Nathro Hill windfarm would form a prominent skyline feature within the existing view;
- Lower Cairny would add further turbines into the view, in a location where turbines would not be present.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **moderate adverse cumulative** visual impact at Viewpoint 6.

Table 4.23			
<i>Viewpoint: 7</i>	White Caterthun summit		
Figure:	4.38	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	3.92km / 7°
Grid Reference	NO 54816 66090	Elev. of viewpoint	300m +/- 5m acc.
Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity			
Operational and other application projects would be seen in various directions and at various distances from the viewpoint. Nathro Hill would form a prominent skyline feature to the north-west, whilst to the west two windfarms at Kilcaldrum and Lumleyden would be visible as dispersed skyline features. Tullo Farm would be visible as a skyline feature to the north-east and a few individual small-scale turbines would be visible throughout the lowland agricultural landscape to the south-east and south, several being located within 2km to the east in the vicinity of Balrennie and Chapelton of Menmuir. Wind turbines would be a characteristic of the existing view, although the Nathro Hill windfarm would form the most prominent feature within the view due to its proximity and skyline location, and where it would compete with the visual prominence of the Hill of Wirren skyline. Lower Cairny would not be seen in the same arc of view as the other wind energy developments within the view, and would introduce wind turbines into a part of the view where they are not currently present.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change			
The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be medium , as there would be a considerable change to the characteristics of the view.			
Assessment of Cumulative Impact			
The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind turbines would form a characteristic of the existing view, and would be visible in various directions; • Nathro Hill windfarm would form a prominent skyline feature within the existing view; • Lower Cairny would add further turbines into the view, in a location where turbines would not be present. 			
Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a moderate adverse cumulative visual impact at Viewpoint 7.			

Table 4.24			
<i>Viewpoint: 8</i>	A90 Lay-by		
Figure:	4.39	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	8.56km / 316°
Grid Reference	NO 61461 63760	Elev. of viewpoint	84m +/- 5m acc
Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity			
There would be a grouping of wind energy developments to the north-east, most of which would appear skylined, with Tullo Farm being locally prominent. Nathro Hill would form a densely grouped, complex arrangement of turbines on the skyline to the west. There would be several other turbines visible to the south-west, although these would be of limited prominence. A random grouping of individual small-scale turbines would be visible between the viewpoint and the Lower Cairny site, and Lower Cairny would be seen in the same arc of view as these, although their overall combination would not result in wind turbines becoming a key characteristic of the view, due to the combination of distance, intervening topography and vegetation and being set down low within the landscape avoiding prominent skyline locations. Lower Cairny would not be seen in combination with the other wind energy developments within the view. However, the proposed turbines would form a very small-scale addition to the existing			

view, such that it would be largely unaffected.
<p>Cumulative Magnitude of Change</p> <p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be low, as there would be a noticeable change to the characteristics of the view.</p>
<p>Assessment of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind turbines would be visible in various directions from the viewpoint; • Nathro Hill and Tullo Farm would form locally prominent features within the view; • Lower Cairny would add further turbines into the view; • Lower Cairny would comprise a small-scale addition to the existing view; • Lower Cairny would not add further turbines onto the existing skyline profile. <p>Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a slight adverse cumulative visual impact at Viewpoint 8.</p>

Table 4.25			
<i>Viewpoint: 9</i>	A90 junction		
Figure:	N/A	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	10.26km / 290°
Grid Reference	NO 65238 66426	Elev. of viewpoint	36m +/- 5m acc
<p>Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity</p> <p>Various turbines would be visible to the north-east, seen predominantly as skyline features. Nathro Hill would form a densely grouped cluster of turbines, predominantly skylined to the west, where they would create a complex visual image. The introduction of Lower Cairny would not change the existing view, as the proposed turbines would be fully screened from view by intervening topography and vegetation.</p>			
<p>Cumulative Magnitude of Change</p> <p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be none, as there would be no change to the visual resource.</p>			
<p>Assessment of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>As the proposed turbines would not be visible and the magnitude of change would therefore be none, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have no effect on the visual amenity of Viewpoint 9.</p>			

Table 4.26			
<i>Viewpoint: 10</i>	South of Fettercairn		
Figure:	4.40	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	10.25km / 254°
Grid Reference	NO 65487 72809	Elev. of viewpoint	64m +/- 7m acc
<p>Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity</p> <p>Nathro Hill would form an extensive arrangement of turbines predominantly skylined, where they would form a prominent feature of the view and would visually compete with the prominence of the Hill of Wirren massif. A single turbine near Laurencekirk and two small-scale turbines would be locally prominent and Tullo Farm would be skylined to the east. Lower Cairny would appear below the Nathro Hill windfarm in the same arc of view, although its very limited visibility of a single blade tip would make</p>			

it barely perceptible, and would have minimal if any change on the character of the view.
<p>Cumulative Magnitude of Change</p> <p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be negligible, as there would be a discernible change to the characteristics of the view.</p>
<p>Assessment of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathro Hill would form a prominent feature of the existing view; • Lower Cairny would appear within the same arc of view as Nathro Hill, although only a very short section of a single turbine blade tip of Lower Cairny would be visible, which at 10km distance would be barely perceptible. <p>Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have no effect at Viewpoint 10, as there would only be a negligible change to the visual character of the view which would be barely perceptible from a viewpoint classed as low sensitivity.</p>

Table 4.27			
<i>Viewpoint: 11</i>	Hill of Finavon fort		
Figure:	4.41	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	14.98km / 17°
Grid Reference	NO 50760 55698	Elev. of viewpoint	206m +/- 5m acc
<p>Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity</p> <p>The Hill of Finavon turbines would be locally dominant due to their close proximity to the viewpoint and would be seen in combination with other turbine groups to the south-west. Nathro Hill would form an extensive arrangement of turbines along the skyline profile, and would form a prominent visual feature within the view. Lower Cairny would introduce a very small section of a single blade tip into the view, above an intervening ridgeline, and given the distance involved would be barely perceptible.</p>			
<p>Cumulative Magnitude of Change</p> <p>The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be negligible, as there would be a discernible change to the characteristics of the view.</p>			
<p>Assessment of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The combination of Hill of Finavon and Nathro Hill windfarms, together with other wind energy developments would result in wind turbines being a characteristic of the existing view; • Only a very short section of one of the Lower Cairny turbine blade tips would be visible, which at almost 15km distance would be barely perceptible. <p>Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have no effect at Viewpoint 11.</p>			

Table 4.28			
<i>Viewpoint: 12</i>	Bridgend road junction		
Figure:	4.42	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	2.65km / 41°
Grid Reference	NO 53583 68005	Elev. of viewpoint	154m +/- 5m acc
Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity			

Only part of one turbine blade of Nathro Hill would be visible above the skyline. Tullo Farm would be visible looking along the West Water Valley, but would be located c20km from the viewpoint where it would not be prominent. Turbines would not form a key characteristic of the view. The addition of Lower Cairny would introduce turbines as new skyline features where they would be likely to become a new visual focus within the view.

Cumulative Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **medium**, as there would be a considerable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Cumulative Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- Turbines would not be a characteristic of the existing view
- Lower Cairny would become a new visual focus within the view, given their skyline location.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **moderate adverse cumulative** visual impact at Viewpoint 12.

Table 4.29			
<i>Viewpoint: 13</i>	Minor road west of Caterthuns – Tullo Farm		
Figure:	4.43	Distance / bearing to nearest turbine	3.5km / 27°
Grid Reference	NO 53743 66863	Elev. of viewpoint	177m +/- 6m acc

Cumulative Change to the Visual Amenity

Nathro Hill would be seen as a small group of turbines set above and beyond the skyline profile, with turbines being visible to varying extents above the horizon. Given the small extent of turbines visible, they would not form a prominent feature of the view. No other turbines would be visible. The addition of Lower Cairny would introduce turbines into the view, backclothed by higher topography although their close proximity would result in them becoming a new prominent visual feature within the view.

Cumulative Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the visual resource is considered to be **medium**, as there would be a considerable change to the characteristics of the view.

Assessment of Cumulative Impact

The following considerations have been taken into account in determining the impact of the proposed changes on the viewpoint:

- Although visible, turbines would not be a characteristic of the view;
- Lower Cairny would be likely to become a new visual focus within the view.

Considering the above factors, it is concluded that the introduction of the turbines would have a **moderate adverse cumulative** visual impact at Viewpoint 13.

Summary Table

4.8.32 A summary of the cumulative visual impact of the proposal on the selected viewpoints is presented in Table 4.30 below. Note that Moderate and Substantial Effects are considered to be significant.

VP No	Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Cumulative Change	Assessment of Cumulative Impact
1	Pirner's Brig picnic site car park	High	Low	Slight Adverse
2	Edzell Castle Gardens	High	None	No Effect
3	Edzell – western edge	High	Low	Slight Adverse
4	Inchbare – western edge	High	Low	Slight Adverse
5	Minor road SW of Edzell, at junction with path	Medium	Low	Slight Adverse
6	Brown Caterthun summit	High	Medium	Moderate Adverse
7	White Caterthun summit	High	Medium	Moderate Adverse
8	A90 Lay-by	Low	Low	Slight Adverse
9	A90 junction	Low	None	No Effect
10	South of Fettercairn	Low	Negligible	No Effect
11	Hill of Finavon fort	Medium	Negligible	No Effect
12	Bridgend road junction	High	Medium	Moderate Adverse
13	Minor road west of Caterthuns – Tullo Farm	Medium	Medium	Moderate Adverse

4.9 Review of Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus – Ironside Farrar, Final Report, March 2014

4.9.1 Introduction

This section considers the '*Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus*' (SLCAWEA) report, and considers a range of issues included in the SLCAWEA which are relevant to the Lower Cairny proposal. It also outlines detailed comments in relation to particular landscape capacity and design related issues.

The key purpose of the SLCAWEA, undertaken as part of a joint study with neighbouring Aberdeenshire to the north, is to provide strategic guidance on the capacity of the landscape across both areas to accommodate wind turbine development, and to inform the review of the Angus Development Plans' spatial framework and supplementary planning guidance, in line with Scottish Planning Policy. SPP and Scottish Government guidance identifies cumulative impacts and landscape capacity as being critical to the identification of areas of search as part of spatial frameworks, and the assessment has thus been prepared to inform the Council on the issues of landscape capacity and cumulative impact.

The SLCAWEA is based on the premise that, given current renewable energy targets, it is accepted that there will be a degree of landscape change and effects on visual amenity resulting from wind energy development, and that these will require careful management in relation to the perceived significance and acceptability of cumulative changes caused by multiple wind energy developments in the landscape.

The study recognises that landscape capacity is only one consideration and a range of other environmental and technical issues also require to be considered in drawing up spatial frameworks and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for wind farm development throughout Angus.

The assessment considered the sensitivity of landscape character types throughout Angus, considering key sensitivities of landscape character, visual amenity and the value placed on the landscape in the form of scenic designations and other recognised interests. The sensitivity assessment also considered potential cumulative issues associated with existing and consented wind farm developments. It therefore represents a strategic study which identifies broad landscape and visual constraints and opportunities for a range of wind energy development scenarios. The assessment recognises that individual wind farm applications will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, where relevant, providing more detailed information on landscape and visual issues.

In relation to the proposed development at Lower Cairny, a comprehensive detailed landscape capacity study and associated design development process has been undertaken in relation to the scale of development proposed, which has been directly informed by an appreciation of the landscape and visual characteristics of the site and its surroundings. In addition, a full LVIA, which considers in detail the likely landscape and visual impacts of the proposed wind cluster which would result, has been undertaken.

It should be recognised that the SLCAWEA, in considering issues of sensitivity at a regional scale, is unable to take account of site-specific detailed design strategies which individual developments may adopt in direct response to the specific sensitivities of particular sites, and in relation to the general issue of 'capacity'. The role of design, in as much as it determines the visual appearance of a wind farm within the landscape, and how the layout of a wind farm relates to particular characteristics, patterns and features of the landscape, is considered fundamental to a detailed consideration of 'landscape capacity' in relation to individual developments – how a wind farm looks within, and relates to, the landscape is equally, if not more, important than whether it can be seen, given that it is widely acknowledged that any wind farm development will become a new visual feature within a landscape. This approach is consistent with the guidance contained within SNH's document 'Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape, 2014, which reinforces the role and importance of design in the strategic siting and detailed layout of wind farm developments.

The site of the proposed wind cluster is located within the '*Highland Foothills*' landscape character type (LCT), and specifically within the '*Edzell Foothills*' landscape character area (LCA) used within the SLCAWEA. Consequently, the elements of the assessment which refer to this character type/area have been used as a basis for reviewing the proposed wind cluster in relation to issues of landscape and visual sensitivity, and capacity, included within the assessment.

In considering the proposed development in relation to the SLCAWEA and its findings, specific statements included within the assessment have been reviewed in relation to the proposed wind cluster, and the more detailed summary table for the '*Highland Foothills*' LCT has been used to provide a related commentary in response to statements made regarding landscape analysis and associated issues. It should be noted that much of the commentary within this review is derived from the more detailed landscape capacity study, design development and landscape and visual impact assessment work included within the Lower Cairny Environmental Statement.

4.9.2 Consideration of General Issues Raised in the SLCWEA

This section considers the proposed development in relation to a series of general issues related to sensitivity and capacity which are contained within the SLCWEA. Comments are provided in relation to these, concerning matters of geographic location, specific detailed characteristics of the Lower Cairny landscape or aspects of the development's design strategy in response to particular characteristics or sensitivities.

SLCAWEA Report Statements	Comments
<p><i>The transition between highland and lowland is particularly dramatically presented in Angus, in the form of the Highland Boundary Fault separating the broad valley of Strathmore from the Grampian Mountains. This is a key factor in affecting the capacity of the Angus landscape to accommodate wind turbines.</i></p>	<p>The landscape and visual sensitivity of the proposed site location as part of a complex transitional landscape has been recognized in the detailed landscape capacity and design work undertaken in developing the proposal. Generally, the proposal site does not comprise a prominent feature within the overall landscape but forms a small part of a more extensive, both horizontally and vertically, area of hills which form the important visual backdrop to the settled lowlands of the Howe of the Mearns. Detailed consideration of the turbine height, layout and elevation has sought to minimise any adverse impacts on the Highland Boundary Fault, in order to protect the visual integrity of the central 'core' area of higher hill summits and the wider skyline profile of hill slopes along the fringe of the <i>Highland</i> landscape region when viewed from Strathmore. As such, it is considered that the proposal site has the landscape capacity to accommodate the scale of development proposed.</p>
<p>Areas of No Capacity <i>Some upper parts of Highland Glens and Highland Foothills which extend into the</i></p>	<p>The <i>Edzell Foothills</i> LCA is geographically separate from the Core Area of Wild Land and, due to the low elevation of the proposed</p>

<p><i>Lochanagar and Mount Keen draft Core Area of Wild Land and are contiguous with the Highland Summits and Plateaux.</i></p>	<p>turbines, there would be no visibility of the proposal in this area. The adjacent relationship of the <i>Edzell Foothills</i> with the <i>Highland Summits and Plateaux</i> ensures that the proposed turbines would be fully backclothed by higher ground when viewed from the lowlands of Strathmore, and the visual separation of the proposed turbines from the important skyline profile would ensure that the visual integrity of this would be retained.</p>
<p><i>It is recommended that these landscape types and areas remain undeveloped with turbines to protect their character, avoid widespread visibility, protect key viewpoints and features and particularly to protect the key feature of the Highland Boundary Fault and its backdrop of the Grampian Mountains.</i></p>	<p>The design approach of siting the proposed turbines at a low elevation, where they would be more directly related to the surrounding agricultural landscape rather than to the upland moorland, and where they would avoid compromising the important skyline profile of the Highland Boundary Fault, has been a key factor in establishing a layout of an appropriate scale to its landscape and visual context, and demonstrates that some limited and considered wind energy development can be accommodated with the <i>Edzell Foothills</i> LCA.</p>
<p><i>All wind energy proposals should be considered on their own unique locational and design characteristics as well as their strategic context. All proposals should be subject to landscape, visual and cumulative impact assessment including (if required) a full environmental assessment.</i></p>	<p>A comprehensive and site-specific design strategy has informed the layout and scale of the proposed wind cluster, based on a detailed appreciation of the landscape and visual characteristics of the site and its surroundings, and which has demonstrated that the area has capacity to accept the scale of development proposed. A full LVIA and cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment has been undertaken in support of the application.</p>

<p><i>There is a very striking contrast between the hills north of the boundary fault and the broad open valley of Strathmore to the south of it.</i></p>	<p>The proposed turbines would not affect the ‘striking contrast’ between highlands and lowlands. They would appear as a small-scale element located low on the hill slopes of the Highland Boundary Fault, subservient to the larger scale and visual prominence of the hills. The visual separation between the proposed turbines and the skyline profile would ensure that the important skyline remains intact and undeveloped.</p>
<p><i>...the potential sensitivity of the highland landscapes as a backdrop to Angus and proximity to the Cairngorms National Park.</i></p>	<p>Previous commentary has discussed the relationship of the proposed turbines to the highland backdrop to Angus. The proposal site is remote from the Cairngorms National Park and would have no effect on this designated landscape.</p>
<p><i>In Angus the largest scale upland types are seen as a prominently visible backdrop to the lowlands. This means that any significant wind energy development would have a very significant effect.</i></p>	<p>The proposed wind cluster comprises of two turbines and therefore is categorized as a small development. Although the proposed turbines fall within the medium/large scale category, the proposed development is not considered to constitute a significant development. Location on the ‘prominently visible backdrop to the lowlands’ does not necessarily result in a very significant or significant (landscape and visual) effect. Assessment of selected viewpoints within the surrounding lowlands indicates that the proposed turbines would have limited overall visual impact on these, and where any impacts would be of a minor, and not significant, nature.</p>
<p><i>The consented developments in highland areas have single or low numbers of turbines of a</i></p>	<p>The proposal for two turbines continues the current size pattern of wind energy</p>

<p><i>smaller size. There are very few consents in the coastal areas and none in the highest of the highland areas, although there are highland windfarms in close proximity in neighbouring Perth & Kinross.</i></p>	<p>developments in the highland areas, although they would be of a medium/large scale. Detailed landscape capacity work indicates that the proposal site and its surroundings have the capacity to accept the scale of turbines proposed. The proposal site is not located in the highest area of the Highland landscape area, but on the much lower lying periphery close to the boundary with the adjacent lowland agricultural landscape.</p>
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4.9.3 Consideration of Specific Issues of the ‘Highland Foothills’ LCT

This section considers the proposed development in relation to the specific issues identified within the detailed section of the SLCAWEA relating to the ‘*Highland Foothills*’ LCT in which the proposed development would be located, and particularly in relation to the section relating to the ‘*Edzell Foothills*’ LCA.

SLCAWEA Report Description	Comments
<p>(iv) EDZELL FOOTHILLS <i>This is much the smallest of the LCAs, lying between West Water and Glen Esk. It predominantly comprises a single hill above Strathmore and the lower slopes of the Highland Summits and Plateaux to the north.</i></p>	<p>The small geographic extent of the LCA obviously limits the overall topographic range which occurs within the <i>Edzell Foothills</i>, specifically as the LCA predominantly comprises of Hill of Edzell. The design development of the proposal has given consideration to the wider topographic context within which the <i>Edzell Foothills</i> are experienced in determining an appropriate scale of turbine for the site and its surroundings. Consequently, it is considered that the proposed turbines do not ‘visually dominate or overwhelm’ the scale of the hill slopes on which they are located and which are seen within the context of the higher adjacent hills to the north.</p>

	<p>The report clearly recognises the inter-relationship between the LCA and the surrounding LCTs/LCAs, such that the LCA is not seen in isolation but as part of a wider and more extensive landscape continuum extending from the lowland agricultural landscape of Strathmore to the open upland summits. The LCA is seen in visual combination with these larger scale surrounding LCTs, with the <i>Highland Summits and Plateaux</i> forming a higher and more extensive backdrop to the lower, smaller scale foothills. Consequently, the proposed turbines would not be seen purely in visual relationship with the LCA but within part of a wider landscape context, where their scale would be more readily absorbed in relation to the surrounding larger scale landscapes.</p>
<p><i>It lies adjacent to the village of Edzell, but has mainly isolated houses accessed by small roads. Hill of Edzell is the main feature, which forms the backdrop to Edzell village and castle on the southern edge. An electricity transmission line passes north of the hill.</i></p>	<p>The proposal avoids a location on the more visually sensitive and prominent Hill of Edzell, being located further west within the LCA, where the foothill slopes merge into the higher slopes leading to the upland summits to the north and the individual foothill summits are less pronounced. A detailed design approach to the project has been adopted which, through the combination of turbine height, elevation and location, uses Hill of Edzell to screen views of the proposed turbines from the village and the Castle.</p>
<p>Landscape Analysis: <i>Smallest of the LCAs. Predominantly a single hill above Strathmore with lower slopes of</i></p>	<p>This recognises the visual inter-relationship between the <i>Edzell Foothills</i> LCA and the adjacent higher <i>Highland Summits and Plateaux</i> LCT,</p>

<p><i>Highland Summits and Plateaux to the north. Only suitable for turbines below 50m. Consideration should be given to the setting of and views from Edzell Castle, grounds and village.</i></p>	<p>which forms the key background feature in most views towards the <i>Edzell Foothills</i>. Due to their small geographic extent, the <i>Edzell Foothills</i> are not seen in visual isolation, except in very close views from their lower slopes, but in combination with the higher upland landscape to the north as a backdrop and with the extensive lowland landscape of Strathmore to the south</p>
<p>Comments on Consented and Proposed Turbines: <i>Current consented development remains well within capacity.</i></p>	<p>The report recognises that given the current very limited extent of consented wind energy development within the Edzell Foothills, there remains further capacity for wind energy development within the LCA. The detailed siting and design work undertaken in developing the Lower Cairny proposal has been led by an appreciation of the detailed landscape and visual characteristic of the development site and its surroundings and demonstrates that the area has the landscape capacity to absorb the scale of development proposed.</p>
<p><i>The proposed turbines at Witton are significantly taller than the recommended 50m maximum for this LCA and Middle Highland Glens LCA, although would not affect the setting of Edzell castle and village.</i></p>	<p>The proposal site does not form a prominent visual feature within the overall landscape, and is largely seen as a small part of the more extensive, range of hills which form the backdrop to the settled lowlands of Angus. Cairny Hill forms a minor lower level feature of the overall hill massif, being located below the higher hill summits of Hill of Wirren (678m) and its associated summits. This backdrop has an extensive horizontal and vertical scale, and the location of the proposed turbines within views towards these hills, set down on the lower slopes</p>

	<p>away from prominent skyline features, and occupying a very small part of the overall horizontal extent of the hill range indicates that the scale of the turbines would not appear overly large within the context of these views.</p> <p>The avoidance of any visibility of the proposed turbines from Edzell Castle and Edzell village has been a major design layout objective, and has been achieved through careful consideration of turbine height and their detailed positioning in terms of elevation and location.</p>
<p><i>External Visibility: Generally quite visible from areas of population and transport corridors although set against a higher backdrop. Visible to receptors travelling to/from the Angus Glens.</i></p>	<p>Refer to previous comments related to the role of the higher backdrop of hills in limiting effects of the proposed turbines.</p> <p>There would be some visibility of the proposed turbines within the West Water Valley, although they would not be visible within the other Angus Glens.</p>
<p><i>Detailed Guidance for Highland Foothills LCT</i> <i>Locate turbines in the enclosed farmland or on lower slopes of the hills, avoiding skylines and reducing inter-visibility between turbines groups.</i></p>	<p>The design approach has located the proposed turbines on the lower slope areas within the LCT, where they relate directly to the local landscape pattern of the improved and unimproved agricultural fields rather than the more open moorland upper slope area. This approach also ensures that the proposed turbines would not appear as skyline features except in views from within very close proximity, and they would be considerable visual separation between the turbines and the skyline of hills which forms the backdrop to much of Angus. Siting the turbines low down also assists in reducing inter-visibility with other wind energy projects, although these</p>

	are currently limited within the immediate surrounding area.
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4.10 Conclusion

4.10.1 This chapter has considered the effects of the proposed Lower Cairny Wind Cluster on the landscape resource and visual amenity of a 20km Study Area around the proposal site. In addition to issues directly related to landscape resource and visual amenity impacts, consideration has also been given to potential impacts on nationally designated landscapes and other designations, to provide a comprehensive assessment of the likely effects of the introduction of the proposed wind cluster throughout the whole of the Study Area.

4.10.2 In a strategic context, the siting of the proposed wind cluster:

- Would not affect the Cairngorms National Park
- Would not affect the Deeside and Lochnagar National Scenic Area
- Would not be located within a landscape character type with a high sensitivity to wind farm development, as defined in the Angus Windfarms, Landscape Capacity and Cumulative Impacts Study.

The proposed site can therefore be considered to be sensitively sited in relation to the key landscape elements of the natural heritage of the Study Area.

4.10.3 Given the scale of development proposed, in terms of turbine numbers and heights, and its proposed layout, the landscape of the proposed wind cluster can be judged to have reasonable capacity to accommodate wind energy development.

4.10.4 Through the adoption of a specific design approach to the scale and height of turbine selected and the design layout generated, adverse landscape and visual impacts have either been avoided or minimised.

4.10.5 Whilst there would be a moderate adverse impact on the landscape character of the proposal site and its immediate surroundings, the introduction of the proposed wind cluster would not result in the wider '*Highland Foothills*' landscape type within which it would be located becoming a 'wind farm landscape', as the small scale of the proposal would not physically or visually form the dominant

characteristic of the landscape. However, local landscape character impacts on this landscape type would still be considered to be moderate adverse. A moderate adverse impact would also occur on the 'West Water Valley' unit of the 'Mid Highland Glens' landscape type immediately to the south of the proposal site, due primarily to its close proximity, short range views and the elevated location of the turbines on the adjacent hill slope above the landscape type. Other surrounding landscape types would be largely unaffected by the introduction of the proposed wind cluster, and the wider underlying landscape character of the Study Area would not be compromised by the introduction of the proposed wind cluster.

4.10.6 The large majority of the limited number of designated gardens and designed landscapes within the Study Area would have no visibility with the proposal and would be unaffected. Where visibility would be available, any impacts would be limited and not significant.

4.10.7 The proposed wind farm would not be seen from the main settlements in Angus. Brechin would have no visibility with the proposed wind cluster, and the nearest settlement at Edzell would equally have no visibility due to screening by intervening topography and tree belts, except at its western edge, where any impact would be slight.

4.10.8 The proposed turbines would not be visually prominent when seen from the main roads through Angus, appearing mostly as a small-scale feature in peripheral views, and backclothed by larger and higher hills to the north. Any impacts would be slight-negligible, and not significant.

4.10.9 A number of individual residential properties are located within 2km of the proposal site and have been assessed in terms of visual impact as part of the consideration of the wider impact on residential amenity. All predominantly face west or south, away from the direction of the proposed wind cluster, and associated buildings and/or boundary vegetation often limits views towards the wind cluster site. Any visual impacts on these properties would be slight or no effect, with their primary views being unaffected, and their overall visual amenity would not be significantly affected.

4.10.10 Considering cumulative landscape and visual impacts, no existing, consented or proposed wind farm developments would be located within the same landscape character area as the proposal, and therefore no potential cumulative landscape impacts on the 'Edzell Foothills' would arise. The addition of

Lower Cairny would have limited cumulative impact on other landscape character areas in the vicinity, as it would add little additional level of impact to the proposed Nathro Hill development.

4.10.11 Consideration of the cumulative visual impact of the proposed wind energy cluster on selected viewpoints in addition to existing, consented and application projects indicates predominantly that the introduction of Lower Cairny would add little to the levels of cumulative impact which would occur. Given the close location, scale and elevation of the Nathro Hill proposal, this project would be likely to result in considerable landscape and visual impacts, often appearing as a visually dominant or prominent feature, and the addition of the lower lying, smaller scale Lower Cairny would result in limited additional cumulative impact. Where the proposed wind energy cluster would be seen in association with other projects, predominantly these would be seen in different view directions at considerable distances, and any cumulative visual impact would be slight at most.

4.10.12 In terms of the siting of the proposed wind cluster, the following comments can be made:

- The proposed site is not located in proximity to key tourist features, would not be visible from the nearby Edzell Castle Garden and Designed Landscape and would not affect any visitor centres, hotels or 'beauty spots'
- No golf courses or activity centres would be adversely affected
- National Cycle Route 1 lies to the very eastern periphery of the 20km Study Area and would have no views of the proposed turbines
- Core Paths in the Study Area would be largely unaffected, and any impacts would be slight or negligible
- No ancient woodland or forestry would be affected and no changes to the existing shelterbelt pattern of the proposal site and its surroundings would be required
- The proposal site would be located away from areas valued for their tranquility and remoteness
- No designated tourist routes and viewpoints would be adversely affected.

4.10.13 The small geographic extent of the LCA obviously limits the overall topographic range which occurs within the *Edzell Foothills*, specifically as the LCA predominantly comprises of Hill of Edzell. The design development of the proposal has given consideration to the wider topographic context within which the *Edzell Foothills* are experienced in determining an appropriate scale of turbine for the site and its surroundings. Consequently, it is considered that the proposed turbines do not 'visually dominate or

overwhelm' the scale of the hill slopes on which they are located and which are seen within the context of the higher adjacent hills to the north.

The report clearly recognises the inter-relationship between the LCA and the surrounding LCTs/LCAs, such that the LCA is not seen in isolation but as part of a wider and more extensive landscape continuum extending from the lowland agricultural landscape of Strathmore to the open upland summits. The LCA is seen in visual combination with these larger scale surrounding LCTs, with the *Highland Summits and Plateaux* forming a higher and more extensive backdrop to the lower, smaller scale foothills. Consequently, the proposed turbines would not be seen purely in visual relationship with the LCA but within part of a wider landscape context, where their scale would be more readily absorbed in relation to the surrounding larger scale landscapes.

4.10.14 The site selection and design approach adopted for the project has sought to actively avoid or minimise adverse landscape and visual impacts where possible. Generally with wind farm developments, some significant adverse impacts are inevitably likely to occur, as recognised in national guidance on wind farm development, and this proposal gives rise to some significant localised adverse impacts which are incapable of being mitigated further, although despite these localised and limited significant adverse impacts, the proposal has predominantly avoided or limited its overall landscape and visual impacts through appropriate siting and design. When considering all the relevant issues, it is concluded that the proposed wind cluster would have a slight adverse landscape and visual impact on the overall Study Area, which is considered not significant.

5. ECOLOGY

Wind farms can affect habitats and species directly, for example through habitat loss or indirectly, for example through disturbance. The applicant recognises the importance of early baseline studies to identify the extent of potential conflicts with nature conservation interests on the proposed development site.

5.1 Background and Purpose of the Report

A breeding bird survey and a bat survey was commissioned on behalf of the landowners to inform the environmental Report of the site.

5.2 Objectives

The breeding bird survey was commissioned to establish the species composition and distribution of breeding birds, and to identify any avian ecological issues in relation to the proposed turbine.

The bat survey was undertaken to establish which species were present, their use of the site, and to assess the potential impacts of the proposed turbines on bat populations.

5.3 Species Protection Status

5.3.1 Birds

Birds, their nests, eggs and young are protected from deliberate or reckless killing or injury by virtue of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* as modified by the *Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004*. In addition some species listed on schedule 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* are protected from disturbance during the breeding season.

5.3.2 Bats

Bats are protected under *Annex IIa* and *IVa* of the *EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EC)* as applied in Scotland under the *Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994*, as amended by the *Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations of 2004, 2007 and 2009*. This creates a series of criminal offences that can result in substantial fines and/or imprisonment. These offences are listed below and make it illegal;

- To deliberately or recklessly capture, injure or kill bats
- To deliberately or recklessly harass a bat or group of bats
- To deliberately or recklessly disturb a bat wherever they occur in a manner that is, or in circumstances which are, likely to impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or otherwise care for its young
- To deliberately or recklessly disturb a bat while it is hibernating or migrating

- To deliberately or recklessly disturb a bat in a manner that is, or is likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which it belongs
- To deliberately or recklessly disturb a bat while it is rearing or otherwise caring for its young
- To deliberately or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it used for shelter or protection
- To deliberately or recklessly obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of a bat, or otherwise deny the animal use of the breeding site or resting place (note that this protection exists even when the bat is not in occupation)
- To damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place (Note this is a strict liability offence and the prosecution do not have to prove deliberate or reckless intent, merely that the roost was damaged or destroyed).
- To possess or control or transport any live or dead bat which has been taken from the wild or anything derived from a bat or any such part of a bat

5.4 The Site

The survey area comprises a 500 metre buffer around the proposed turbine location as illustrated in *Figure 5.1*.



Figure 5.1

Site Location and Survey Boundary

The turbines are located on the edge of the more intensively managed land, most of which is used for arable or improved grassland and upland semi-improved grazing to the north of the proposed turbine location. The farm is primarily livestock, both cattle and sheep, although there is arable and silage on the flatter ground in the valley.

Principle features in the landscape are the disused steading at Bogton, some 250m north west of the nearest turbine, the burn that runs close to it and the conifer plantation to the west. There are also areas of woodland on the periphery of the 500m survey area. Most of the land is well drained but north of Bogton steading the drainage of the ground to the west of the burn is poorer and contains areas of marshy grassland and a small shooting pond. The site contains few hedges and dykes, and those that do exist are in very poor condition.

The steading contains a large disused farmhouse and a number of outbuildings surrounded by scrub, overgrown garden and areas of semi-mature woodland. This includes stands of larger deciduous trees and some conifers.



Figure 5.2 *Bogton Steading from South East (Note trees along line of burn)*

The main burn runs immediately to the east of the steading, and has scrub including gorse, rowan and more mature trees as it passes the steading. It flows beyond the southern survey boundary and joins the West Water river. As it passes through the low ground south of the steading it flows through an

improved grassland field but areas along the western edge of the burn are wetter and support marshy grassland.

The large conifer block in the east of the site is smaller than shown on ordnance survey maps, and much of the northern area is now improved grass with a small area of rough grass enclosed by remnant dykes and barbed wire fences.



Figure 5.3 Eastern Conifer Wood from North

To the north of the survey boundary the wider landscape becomes hillier and is given over to managed grouse moor. To the south it is dominated by gentler rolling agriculture with both improved grass and arable crops, and frequent small scale conifer shelter belts and woodlands.

5.5 Methodology

5.5.1 Breeding birds

Three surveys within the 500m boundary were undertaken between June and July using modified Common Bird Census (CBC) techniques¹ with coverage within 50m of all wooded areas and burns, ditches and dykes, and 100m or less for large open fields.

All species were mapped using British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) two letter codes to establish their location (see Appendix 5) and any details of numbers and behaviour were noted.

Analysis was undertaken using CBC territory mapping and lowland wader analysis (O'Brian & Smith 1992 in Gilbert et al 1998).

5.5.2 Bats

Surveys were informed by the most recent guidance² and comprised a mixture of transects, emergence/commuting counts and automated detector surveys. Given the open nature of the turbine locations and the low diversity of bat species known from the area two transect periods were adopted; an early period to survey breeding activity, and a late period to sample dispersing bats. The early survey was undertaken in July and the late survey in September. Surveys were undertaken by two experienced batworkers, one of whom holds licences for roost visits, ringing and research.

Prior to transect surveys beginning key features of the site were monitored from 15 minutes prior to sunset for 1-1.5 hours to check for roost usage or potential commuting routes in and out of the site. During the early visit the emergence count was supplemented with an Anabat detector near potential commuting routes from the roost area.

A transect route was set up during the daytime and point counts geo-referenced onto a GPS unit based on proximity to features that were likely to be used by bats or were relevant to the potential turbine locations. At each point a three minute sample of activity was taken. A new track was then started for the walked transect to the next point. The entire transect was walked twice during each visit. The methodology is similar to that used in the national nathusius pipistrelle surveys.³

(1) Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. & Mustoe, S.H. 2000. Bird Census Techniques (2nd Edition). Academic Press.

(2) Hundt, L (2012). Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines, 2nd edition. Bat Conservation Trust

(3) http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/nathusius_pipistrelle_survey.html

During the transect setup the potential roost sites were checked, particularly at Bogton steading, around bridges, and within the main conifer wood.

Batbox Duet frequency division detectors linked to Ediol solid state recording devices were used for emergence/commuting surveys, and transect and point count surveys. All data was analysed using BatSound software.

In addition two Anabat detectors were left in position near potential bat feeding and commuting areas close to the proposed turbine locations. These were left in situ for eight nights during July and five nights in September. All data was analysed using Analook software, with the count unit being the number of files that contained one or more bat contacts.

A desktop study of local and National Biodiversity Network (NBN) records was undertaken.

5.6 Survey Findings

5.6.1 Breeding Birds

Details of the surveys and survey conditions are given in *Table 1* below;

Table 1 Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Date	Temp	Weather	Cloud	Wind	Time
01/06/2012	9	dry	4-6	0-3 NE	0545-0830
25/06/2012	11	dry	5-6	2-3 N	0610-0850
08/07/2012	11	dry	6-7	4-5 NW	0605-0840

Times are in BST, temperature is in degrees centigrade, wind is measured on the Beaufort scale and cloud is in eighths.

Survey conditions were suitable for detecting bird song and behaviour being dry with light winds and no rain, although conditions on the final visit (8/7/12) deteriorated and became quite breezy as the morning progressed. Due to very poor weather in May the earliest survey was not until 1st June. All counts were completed before 12 noon and began sufficiently late to survey waders effectively.

5.6.2 Bats

Table 2 provides information on weather conditions during the bat surveys.

Table 2 Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Date	Task	Temp	Humidity %	Precip	Cloud	Wind	Time	Sunset/sunrise
25/06/2012	Set up transect & check roost potential	11		dry	6 /8-7/8	3 N	0850-1100	
12/07/2012	Emergence & commuting start	13	80	dry	8/8	0	2050	2155
12/07/2012	Emergence & commuting finish	10.5	86	dry	8/8	0-1 NE	2315	
12-13/7/12	Transect	8.5	97	Short period of v.l drizzle	8/8	1-2 NE	2335-0215	
16/09/2012	emergence & commuting start	9	78	dry	3/8	3-4 NW	1900	1928
16/09/2012	Emergence finish/ transect start	9	81	dry	1/8	3-4 NW	2030	
16/09/2012	Transect finish	7	90	dry	0/8-1/8	3 NW	2310	

Weather conditions were good for surveys, and with the exception of a short period of drizzle on the 12th July were dry, mild and calm, although wind speeds were higher during the September visit but still within acceptable limits.

Anabats were deployed from the 12th July-21st July 2012 and again from 16th September-20th September inclusive. A summary of weather during each period is given below. This weather is derived from the Weather Underground website⁴;

Table 3 Summary of Weather during Anabat Deployment

July	Min	Max	Ave	Total	Notes
Mean Temp	11	13	12		
Precipitation	0	15	2.3	23.37	It was dry on the 17 th but otherwise small amounts of rain fell on other days. Wet days were 15 th (6.1mm) and 18 th (14.99mm)
Mean Wind	0	29	12		It was windy on 12 th and 19 th .
September	Min	Max	Ave	Total	Notes
Mean Temp	8	12	10		
Precipitation	0.2	0.8	0.6	3.04	Rained every day but only in small amounts (<1mm)
Mean Wind	0	39	13		Windy days were 18 th & 19 th with gusts of 60kph on 18 th .

Data for temperature is in centigrade, for precipitation in mm, and wind in kilometres per hour (kph).

Overall the weather was good during the July deployment except on the 15th and 19th when heavy rain (>5mm) was experienced. There was no rain on the 17th. It was very windy (>15kph) on the 12th and 19th.

The September deployment was marked by more even weather, with slightly lower temperatures and though it rained every day it did so in small amounts (never more than 0.76mm). Light winds at the

(1) http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/EGPD/2012/9/16/CustomHistory.html?dayend=20&monthend=9&yearend=2012&req_city=NA&req_state=NA&req_statename=NA&MR=1

beginning of the week gave way to gusty weather on the 18th and 19th, with gusts of up to 60 kph recorded on the 18th.

5.7 Field survey

5.7.1 Breeding Birds

A total of 44 species were encountered during the three surveys of which 35 were recorded as breeding. Of these nine were regarded as possibly breeding, eleven as probably breeding, and fifteen species were confirmed as breeding. This status was derived using the standard codes used for the national bird atlas project.⁵

Table 4 lists all the species recorded, the number of estimated territories present within the study area, the breeding status (Po=Possible breeding, Pr=Probable breeding, and C=Confirmed breeding). Data on non-breeding flocks were relevant is given, as are notes that indicate habitat associations or other relevant details. A P indicates that a species was present but was not believed to be breeding (e.g. it may have been on passage or foraging over the site but not breeding in it); NC means not counted i.e. the species may have been breeding but was not assessed. This was the case for both pheasant (a commonly released game species) and feral pigeon.

Table 4 Summary of Species Recorded

Species	Species Code	No. of Territories	of Breeding Status	Max. Flock Counts	Notes	UKBAP
Blackbird	B.	5	C		Bogton steading and wood	
Blackcap	BC	1	Po		Bogton wood	
Blue Tit	BT	1	Pr		By steading	
Bullfinch	BF	P			Passing through south of site	
Buzzard	BZ	1-2	C		Nest in Bogton wood. Recently fledged juv in trees around steading.	

(1) <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdatlas/taking-part/breeding-evidence>

Species	Species Code	No. of Territories	Breeding Status	Max. Flock Counts	Notes	UKBAP
Carrion crow	C.	P			Possibly bred but no evidence of nesting or young. Kepered site	
Chaffinch	CH	12	C		Steading, Bogton wood, Tillydovie, hedgerows and scrub	
Coal tit	CT	2	C		Bogton wood	
Collared Dove	CD	P			no sign of breeding	
Common gull	CM	P			no sign of breeding	
Crossbill	CR	P		18	flock of 18 passing through site on 1st June	
Curlew	CU	1-2	Pr		On northern periphery of 500m buffer	Yes
Dunnock	D.	5	C		Bogton steading, burn above steading and Bogton wood	Yes
Feral Pigeon	FP	NC			Breeds at steading	
Goldcrest	GC	4	C		Bogton wood	
Goldfinch	GO	1-2	Pr		Bogton steading	
Great spotted	GS	1	Po		Bogton wood	

Species	Species Code	No. of Territories	Breeding Status	Max. Flock Counts	Notes	UKBAP
woodpecker						
Great tit	GT	2	C		Steading & Bogton wood	
Greenfinch	GR	1	Po		Bogton steading	
Jackdaw	JD	3	C	40	Family parties seen Bogton wood but evidence of breeding at steading. Minimum of 3 nesting pairs.	
Lapwing	L.	4	C	6	Breeding to NW of steading, family party on cut field in July to W of main burn. Another pair (not counted) just beyond 500m buffer on Cairny hill	Yes
Redpoll	LR	1	Po	1	1 flying near turbines 1st June. Not seen subsequently	
Mallard	MA	1	C		family party on pond to N of steading	
Meadow Pipit	MP	3	Pr		North of site	
Mistle Thrush	M.	1	Po		Between steading and top	

Species	Species Code	No. of Territories	of Breeding Status	Max. Flock Counts	Notes	UKBAP
					of Bogton wood	
Oystercatcher	OC	11	Co	24	Most widespread wader, but mainly concentrated to west of burn.	
Pheasant	PH	NC				
Pied Wagtail	PW	2	Pr		East of wood and at steading	
Reed Bunting	RB	1	Pr		Pond north of Bogton steading	Yes
Robin	R.	7	C		Bogton steading and wood	
Skylark	S.	1	Pr		NE perimeter of survey boundary	
Snipe	SN	1	Pr		N of steading	
Song Thrush	ST	3	Po		steading, Bogton and Tillydovie	Yes
Sparrowhawk	SH	P			1 hunting Bogton steading 25/6/12	
Spotted Flycatcher	SF	2	Po		One at Bogton steading & one in wood. Both only seen 1st June so may have been late passage birds	Yes
Starling	SG	2	Po	17	Min count. Probably bred in	Yes

Species	Species Code	No. of Territories	of Breeding Status	Max. Flock Counts	Notes	UKBAP
					Bogton steading buildings	
Swallow	SL	2	C		Min 2 nests at steading	
Siskin	SK	1	Pr		Minimum count. Bogton wood	
Wheatear	W.	1	C		North of site	
Whitethroat	WH	2	Po		hedge between fields and scrub at Tillydovie	
Willow Warbler	WW	13	C		Concentrated around steading and wood. Possible that some territories with single registrations from 1st June are passage birds	
Wood Pigeon	WP	4	Pr		Bogton wood and Tillydovie	
Wren	WR	4	Pr		Along burns and in Bogton wood	
Yellowhammer	Y.	3	C		Along main road and immediately S of steading	Yes

* Species in red or amber are on the BoCC list (Birds of Conservation Concern due to either declines in populations or restricted ranges)⁶. UKBAP species are those where declines have prompted national

(1) Eaton MA, Brown AF, Noble DG, Musgrove AJ, Hearn R, Aebischer NJ, Gibbons DW, Evans A and Gregory RD (2009) Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. *British Birds* 102, pp296-341.

species action plans to be developed. The only schedule 1 species with special protection under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* as amended by the *Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004* was crossbill. This was not breeding on the site.

As can be seen from *Table 4* a total of seven red list species were recorded (five of them UKBAP species). All seven of these red list species were recorded as breeding although it is possible that spotted flycatcher may have been passage only. Red listed species are those that have experienced a sharp population decline or range contraction of over 50% in the last 25 years.

Ten amber listed species (three of them UKBAP species) were recorded, all of which were recorded as breeding. Amber listed species have experienced moderate range or population declines of 25%-49% in the last 25 years.

Wader densities were high, and concentrated primarily in the west and north west of the survey area, mainly in the wetter areas. Oystercatcher did occur in the improved lowland fields, but generally close to ditches or wetter areas.

Almost all other species were associated with woodland and scrub around Bogton steading, including the upper reaches of the burn that have tree or scrub cover; and the conifer woodland at Bogton. A small number of birds were associated with patches of scrub and woodland near the main road, or occasionally remnant hedgerows (e.g. whitethroat).

At least one pair of buzzards bred in Bogton (nest found) and the presence of barely fledged juveniles at Bogton steading on the 8th July 2012 whilst fledged juveniles were present simultaneously at the conifer wood indicated a second pair at the steading.

Figure 5.4 gives the approximate location of wader territories, whilst *Figures 5.5* and *5.6* show the distribution of red listed and amber listed species.

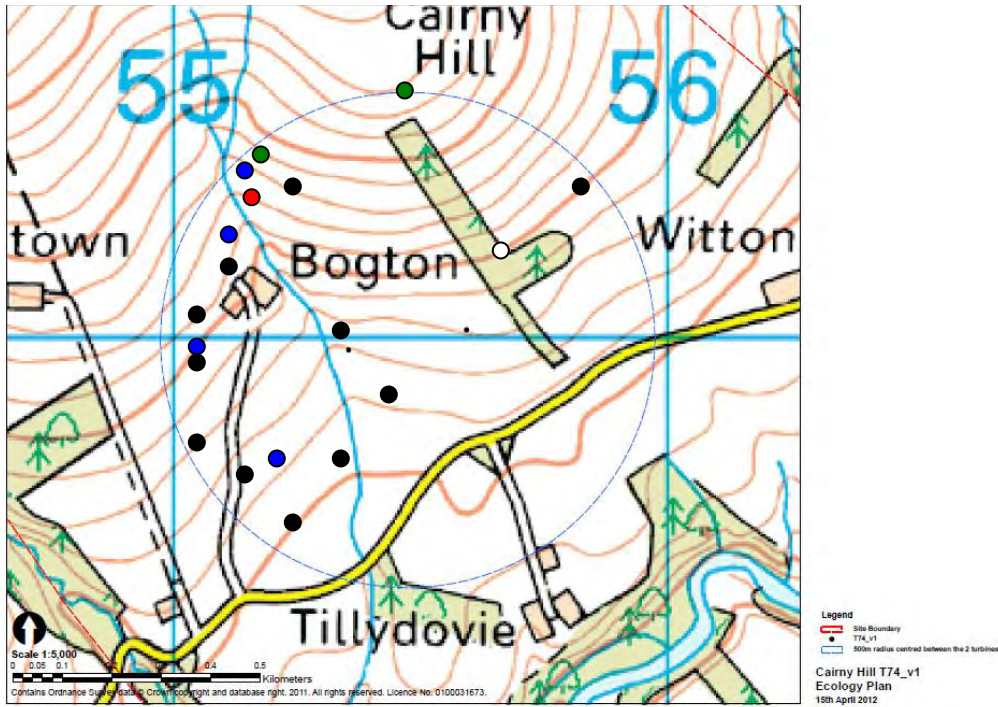


Figure 5.4 Approximate Location of Wader Territories

Blue=Lapwing; Red=Snipe; Green=Curlew; Black=Oystercatcher. White=buzzard nest



Figure 5.5 BoCC Red List Passerine Distribution Red=spotted flycatcher; Pink= skylark; Orange= lesser redpoll; Blue= song thrush; Yellow=yellowhammer

Starling is omitted from *Figure 5* as breeding had completed and groups were regularly encountered feeding on grassland around Bogton steading and, post silage cut, on fields below Bogton and west of the burn. It is presumed the birds bred in the steading and associated outbuildings given the cluster of records from this area.

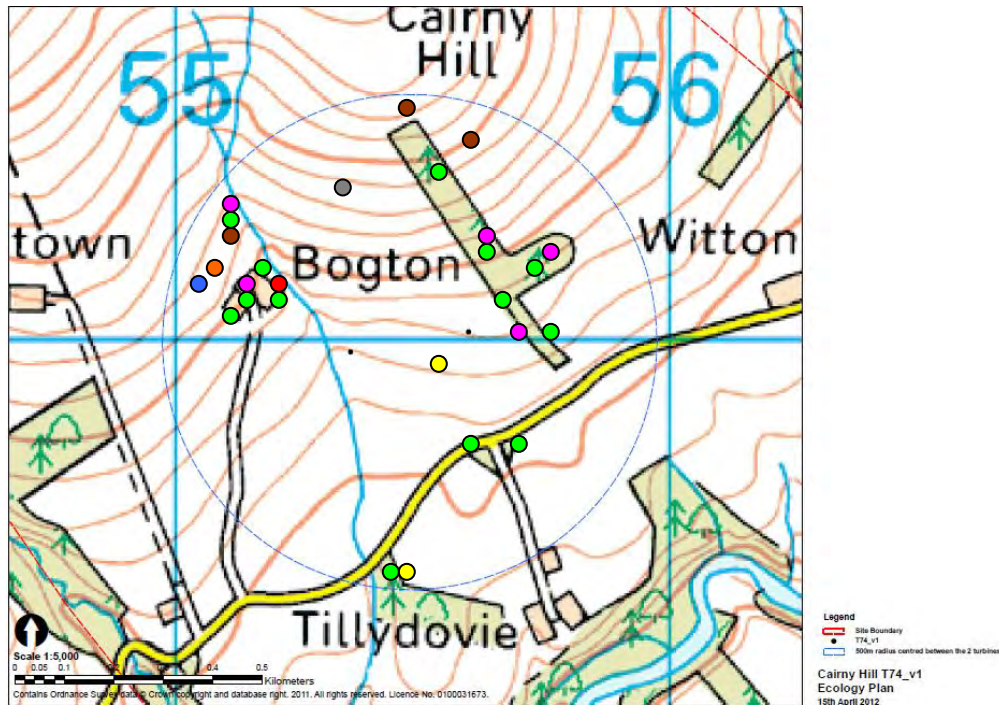


Figure 5.6 BoCC Amber Listed Species

Red= Swallow (min. 2 nests); Brown=meadow pipit; Orange=mallard; Pink= dunnock; Yellow=whitethroat; Green=willow warbler; Blue=reed bunting; Grey=mistle thrush

Outwith the breeding bird surveys two other species were detected during the bat surveys on 12th July. A tawny owl was calling from the south end of the conifer plantation and a small party of golden plover were heard calling from high up (>150m) to the north of Bogton steading over the upland ground.

5.7.2 Bats

Emergence Surveys

Potential roost sites were identified at Bogton steading, an isolated Scots pine north of the western turbine (WT), a batbox in the woodland on the south west periphery of the 500m survey buffer, and potential commuting routes from Tillydovie were also identified.

Examination of the batbox found no evidence of usage but a survey point was allocated to it for the transect survey.

Due to its size two observers plus an Anabat detector were deployed at Bogton Steading on the 12th July, with the Anabat continuing to record till 0212 hours.

It rapidly became clear that there was a mixed pipistrelle roost associated with the farmhouse, with the first bat, a soprano pipistrelle, recorded at 2148. After 2200 the dominant contacts were common pipistrelle with bats returning early to the roost. In total a minimum of 20+ mixed soprano and common pipistrelle were present, the majority being common pipistrelle, these being the bats most likely to re-enter the roost early. This behaviour would be consistent with a small maternity colony of common pipistrelles. Soprano activity may have been linked to either small numbers of non-breeding bats in the house or possibly a small maternity colony (although given the number of contacts this latter explanation is unlikely).

Pipistrelles of both species tended to feed locally, with most dispersing north to the pond area, south along the mature tree line or feeding in and above the canopy around the barn to the east.

At least two *Myotis* bats were present near the barn, with at least one emerging within it and flying around internally before leaving. This was subsequently detected by the Anabat between the barn and the burn to the east. This behaviour is suggestive of but not conclusive that the bats may have been Daubenton's bats.

It is likely the house contained a small roost of brown long-eared bats, as one was detected in thick cover by the gate to the north of the house that opens onto the open hill.



Figure 5.7 Summary of Emergence Survey Activity 12th July 2012

Key to Figure

Common pipistrelle	●
Soprano pipistrelle	●
Brown long-eared bat	●
<i>Myotis sp.</i>	●
Flightlines	↔
Observers	●
Anabat Detector (Remote Sensor)	●

The Anabat data indicated a low level of contacts initially dominated by common pipistrelle but this declined and there was a peak of activity by soprano pipistrelle between midnight and 0225. These latter contacts, which included very occasional social calls, are more likely to represent 1-2 individuals using the area repeatedly.

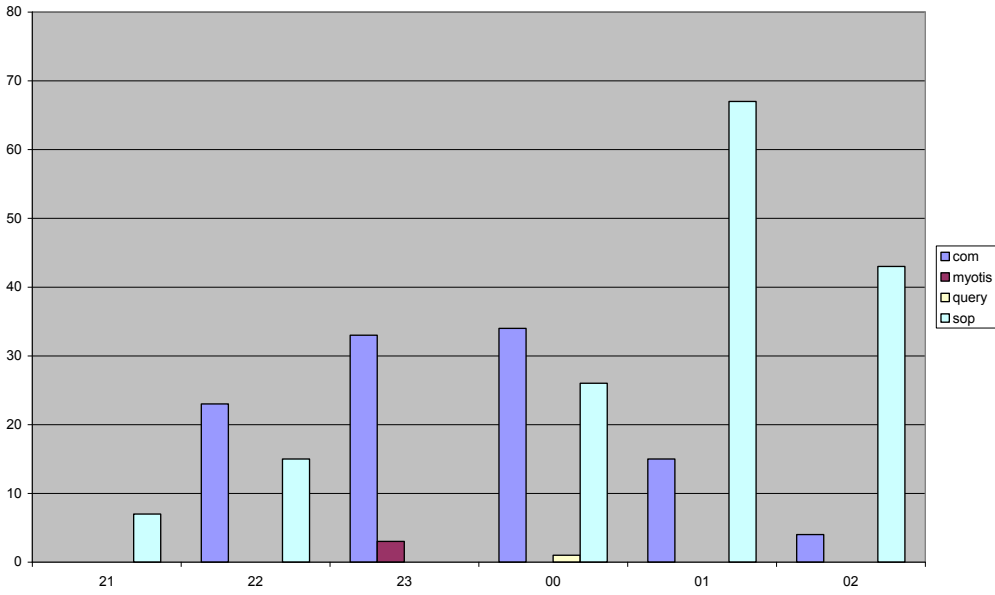


Figure 5.8 Anabat Files per Hour and Species at Bogton 12th July 2012



Figure 5.9 View of Abandoned House from South (Bats present in both buildings)

Emergence surveys on the 16th September 2012 focused on potential commuting routes out of Tillydovie farm towards the turbines, and potential roost sites in an isolated Scots pine close to the Western Turbine (WT) location.

The observer placed at the road junction at the main road entrance to Tillydovie found no evidence of any commuting from the farm, with only three faint soprano pipistrelle contacts between 2004-2009. These were consistent with bats foraging in scrub to the south of the main road.

The isolated Scots pine had a single faint soprano pipistrelle contact at 2004, a common pipistrelle pass at 2009. At 2017 there was another common pipistrelle contact and at 2018 a common pipistrelle was seen coming from the east, flew around the tree once, and then followed the ditch and burn up towards Bogton. This behaviour was repeated at 2023 by another common pipistrelle from the east, but the bat appeared to return eastwards after briefly songflighting around the tree. A soprano pipistrelle fed briefly at the tree having come from the east at 2025, after which time recording finished. At no time was there any evidence of bats entering or exiting the tree. Physical examination from the ground with binoculars found no obvious indication of suitable cavities.



Figure 5.10 Emergence & Commuting Survey Summary 16th September 2012

Key to Figure

Common pipistrelle	●
Soprano pipistrelle	●
Flightlines	↔
Observers	●

Transect Surveys

The transect routes were broadly similar on both the 12th July and 16th September 2012 with the exception that on the latter date four additional points were added mainly to sample the open semi-improved grassland to the north of the turbines. Transects were also walked in a different order in September to avoid temporal bias.

The July transect started and finished at Bogton steading and overlapped with the emergence survey described above. Activity was therefore high at this point and southwards towards E2, and included both pipistrelles and a *Myotis* near the barn.

Activity was also detected along the burn and ditch system at E4, E5 and E6, with possible *Myotis* (probably Daubenton's given the association with the water) at E4 and the bridge at E5, plus both species of pipistrelle. All activity involved one or occasionally possibly two bats.

There were a cluster of mainly common pipistrelle records along the woodland edge E8-E10, with a minimum of two common pipistrelles feeding in the sheltered area at E10.

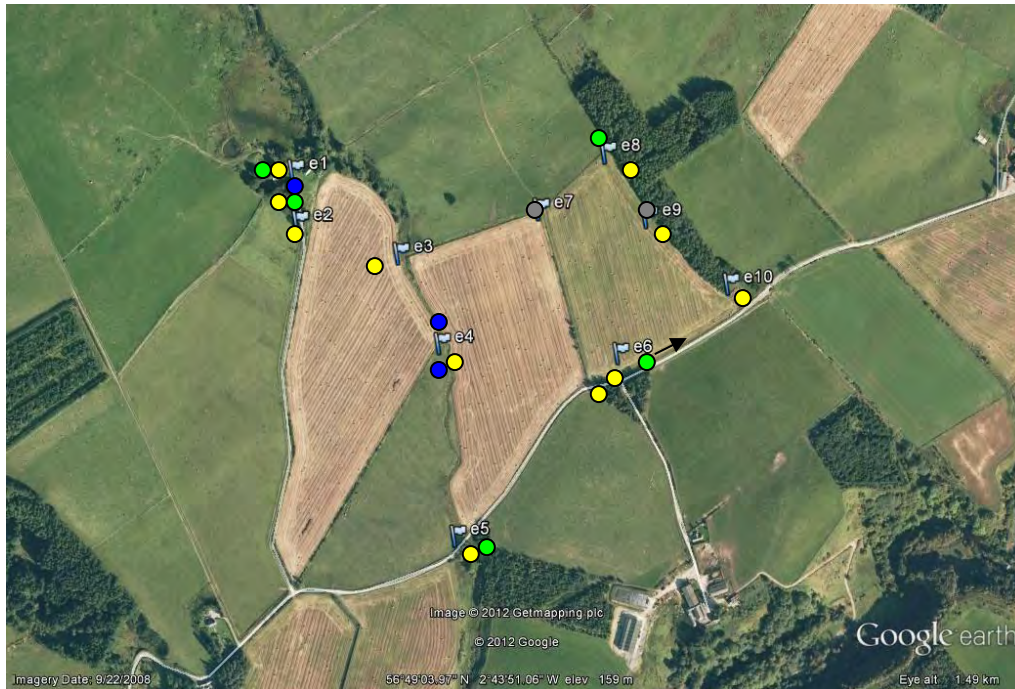


Figure 5.11 Summary of Walked Transect 12th July 2012

Key to Figure

Common pipistrelle	●
Soprano pipistrelle	●
<i>Myotis sp.</i>	●
Flightlines	↔
Anabat Detector (Remote Sensor)	●

As can be seen from the above the most widespread species was common pipistrelle, but activity for all species was low and involved only 1-2 bats at any one location with the exception of the stading at Bogton. The *Myotis* contacts were strongly linked to the burn flowing south from the stading. There was isolated activity at woodland sites at E5 and E6 but little evidence of commuting between these points; although a soprano pipistrelle was seen flying along the road eastwards towards E10.

There was no sign of bats moving along the ditch system between E3 and E7-E8, or north south along the ditch and remnant hedgerow between E6 and E7.

The late season transect on 16th September 2012 found far fewer bats and these were restricted to the area around Bogton steading, a single soprano pipistrelle flying along the burn at E3 and both species feeding around the sheltered area at E10. There was single very faint and unidentifiable pipistrelle sp. call to the south of the bridge at E5 (not included in the figure below).

Additional points to sample activity on the open hill to the north were included, including a sample point at the isolated Scots pine (EX1) covered during the emergence survey. These points were added as the surveyors previous wind farm experience has shown that bats may forage in more open upland habitats late in the season.

The only additional point to record activity during the transect was EX1 with both a single common and soprano pipistrelle rapid pass recorded between 2152 and 2158. No other EX point recorded contacts.



Figure 5.12 Summary of Walked Transect 16th September 2012

Key to Figure

Common pipistrelle	●
Soprano pipistrelle	●
Unidentified pipistrelle	○
Flightlines	←→
Anabat Detector (Remote Sensor)	●

Activity was highest around the steading, with lots of social calling by common pipistrelles, although the total number of bats involved may well have been in single figures.

Anabat Survey Data

Details of the Anabat locations are provided in *Figure 11* (July) and *Figure 12* (September). On both occasions an Anabat was located at E7, the crossroads of two ditches, one running east-west between the conifer woodland and the burn at Bogton, the other running north-south to the small woodland at Tillydovie.

In July the other Anabat was located at E9 to sample activity along the edge of the conifer woodland. In September this was moved north to E8 to increase the likelihood of detecting any movement between E7 and E8 in the woodland.

A nightly summary of data for E7 and E9 during the period 12th to 20th July 2012 is given below. It should be noted that whilst Anabats provide the advantage of allowing a long time series of data to be collected they are incapable of differentiating between one bats passing ten times and ten bats passing once. Activity is therefore recorded on the basis of the number of files containing at least one pass of a species.

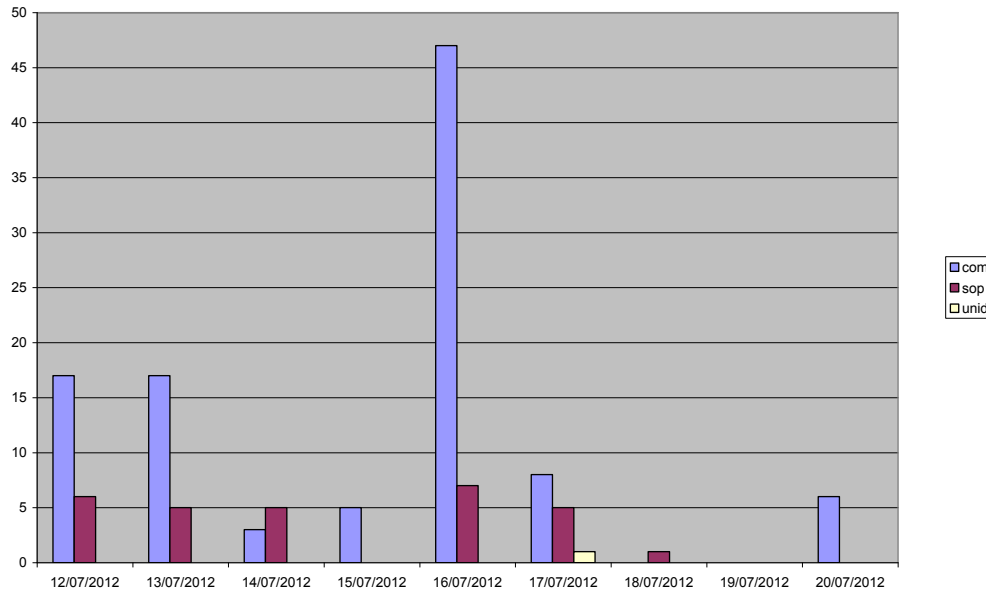


Figure 5.13 Anabat Files per Night and Species at E7 (Ditch Crossroads) July 2012

Low numbers of passes on the 15th, 18th and 19th are probably weather related, as the 15th and 18th were wet and the 19th windy. As can be seen the majority of records are common pipistrelle, and activity is low, with the peak being 47 files on the 16th July.

At E9 (woodland edge) common pipistrelle was also the dominant species and the number of contacts was four times that at E7, with the peak being 202 common pipistrelle on the 16th. The peak of soprano pipistrelle contacts was also on the 16th with 56 files recorded. There was a single *Myotis* contact on the 14th and a poor quality sonogram that could not be identified.

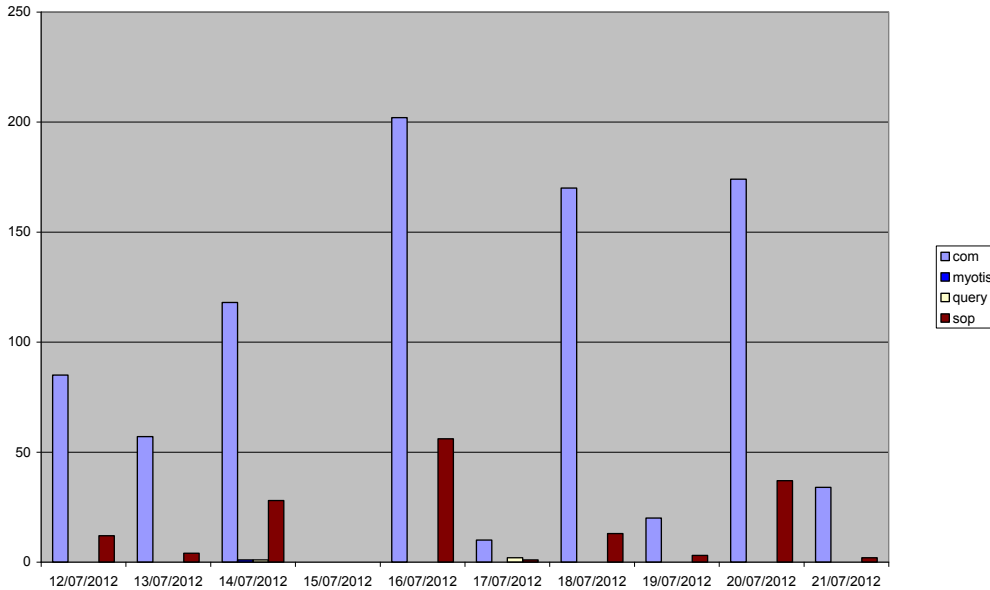


Figure 5.14 Anabat Files per Night and Species at E9 (Woodland Edge) July 2012

In September no bats were recorded at E7 during the entire period 16th-20th September (including during the emergence and transect surveys when bats were noted by observers at EX1-the isolated Scots pine).

Activity at E8 at the northern edge of the conifer woodland was initially low, and was entirely absent on the 18th when gusts of up to 60 kph were recorded. Towards the end of the week activity increased, although peak activity was approximately half that noted in July, and the proportion of soprano pipistrelle contacts was higher. The peak count on the 20th was 98 common and 63 soprano pipistrelles contacts.

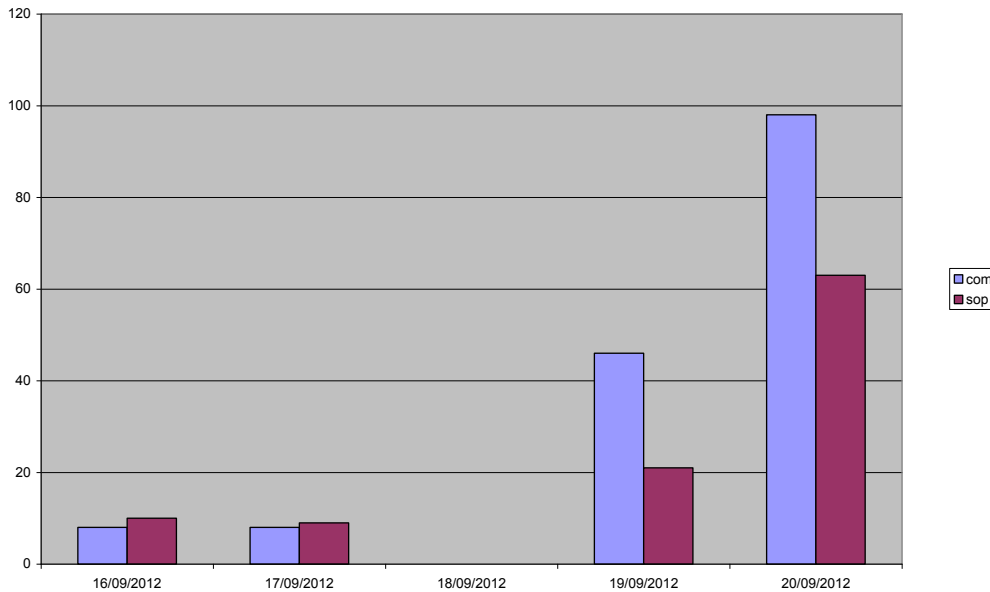


Figure 5.15 Anabat Files per Night and Species at E8 (Woodland Edge) Sept. 2012

Local and National Biodiversity Network bat records indicate the nearest bats are pipistrelle sp. reported from Milden Lodge, Bridgend and Edzell; with common pipistrelle reported from Balfield.

5.8 Discussion

5.8.1 Breeding birds

The data indicates that the turbine locations are in areas least used by birds, and there is a strong correlation between bird density and the wooded areas associated with the Bogton steading and the large conifer wood. The site supports a reasonably diverse bird community dominated by woodland and scrub passerines and nesting waders.

Lowland waders such as lapwing and oystercatcher were recorded nesting in high densities but are clearly concentrated either on wetter upland ground to the north or in fields to the south of Bogton and mainly west of the burn rather than the arable fields in close proximity to the conifer woodland or turbine sites.

Raptor densities were noticeably lower than those recorded on the upland areas to the north⁷, where the abundant rabbit population was thought to be a significant factor. A nesting buzzard was confirmed in Bogton wood, and it is probable that another family was reared in the woodland around the steading. A tawny owl was recorded during the bat surveys in the south of the conifer woodland, but this species is a woodland specialist and is highly unlikely to come into conflict with turbines due to its foraging behaviour (mainly within woods) and low level flight.

(1) Eden Ecology Ltd (2011). Breeding Bird Survey for Proposed Single Turbine, Witton Farm, Edzell, Angus.

5.8.2 Bats

The evidence indicates a common pipistrelle roost, probably a small maternity colony, in buildings at Bogton. These buildings are shared with smaller numbers of soprano pipistrelle, and it is probable that these are non-breeders. This assumption is made on the basis of the low number of soprano pipistrelles present and the likely roost conditions within the building. Soprano pipistrelles tend to form larger roosts and appear to prefer warmer roost conditions than common pipistrelle.⁸ Small numbers of both *Myotis* and brown long-eared bat were also present at Bogton, with evidence of the former commuting along the burn to the south, possibly indicating Daubenton's bat.

Pipistrelle and brown long-eared bats associated with Bogton appeared to feed largely within the surrounding woodland and nearby pond. There appeared to be some evidence of limited movement between Bogton and the conifer wood to the east by both pipistrelle species, but only during July and not in September. The total number of individuals appeared to be small (<5).

There was evidence of bats feeding along the edge of the conifer woodland, and particularly at the southern edge. The total number of bats involved appears to be small (never more than 2 individuals at any one time). Potential sources for these bats may be from Bogton (the most likely explanation), within the woodland itself, or possibly commuting along the road from Tillydovie. With the exception of the line of semi-mature deciduous trees running from the edge of the conifer woodland to the roadside, the trees within the wood were generally rather young to be effective bat roosts.

No evidence of roosting in the isolated Scots pine was noted, but the tree appeared to be a significant landscape feature for bats and was regularly visited by apparently commuting or feeding single pipistrelles (both species).

5.9 Impacts

5.9.1 Breeding birds

The main impacts on breeding species that may arise from the placement of the turbines are;

- Disturbance during construction.
- Habitat loss due to infrastructure (including indirect effects on drainage and vegetation).
- Increased mortality through collision risk.
- Displacement of breeding territories through operation.

Disturbance during construction is likely to be limited as few birds breed within the immediate vicinity of the proposed turbines or the likely access route. The species most likely to be affected would be more disturbance sensitive species such as buzzard breeding in the main conifer wood, or whitethroat (one

(2) Altringham, J. 2003. British Bats. The New Naturalist. HarperCollins

territory) on the likely access corridor. Avoiding construction during the breeding season would reduce such impacts to a negligible level.

Use of existing tracks over much of the route would minimise land take and the potential for interfering with drainage. Using the existing tractor access between survey points E6 and E7 would minimise disturbance to nesting waders. Little reduction in passerine activity would be anticipated.

Given the low number and diversity of raptors present and the concentration of activity around the steading and conifer woodland the overall risk of collision is relatively low, although some hazard to dispersing recently fledged buzzards may arise. Recent work on avoidance rates by a variety of species including raptors and geese, indicate avoidance rates around 99%⁹.

Work by Devereux¹⁰ has indicated that displacement by wind farms of farmland birds is minimal, and as most species are concentrated around the steading and within the conifer woodland displacement effects from the turbines are unlikely. The work of Pearce-Higgins et al¹¹, which was based on large scale wind farms in remote areas where birdlife was unhabituated to disturbance, identified snipe, curlew, meadow pipit and wheatear as potentially being affected by turbine displacement. For many species such as lapwing Pearce-Higgins et al could find no obvious effect.

Applying the predictions to current populations on site, and assuming a worst case scenario that birds in regularly worked mixed farmland are equally sensitive to disturbance as those in remote peatland, would indicate the following reductions in density might occur (see over).

(1) Ruddock, M. & Whitfield D.P. 2007 A Review of Disturbance Distances in Selected Bird Species. Natural Research (Projects) Ltd/ Scottish Natural Heritage

(2) Devereux, C.L., Denny, M.J.H. & Whittingham, M.J (2008). Minimal effects of wind turbines on the distribution of wintering farmland birds. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 45, 1689–1694

(3) Pearce-Higgins, J.W., Stephen, L., Langston, R.H.W., Bainbridge, I.P. and Bulman, R. 2009. The distribution of breeding birds around upland wind farms. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 46, 1323-1331

Table 5 Application of Pearce-Higgins Modelling Within 500m of Proposed Turbine

Species	Existing Pairs	Predicted Decline	% Displaced territories	Residual population
Snipe	1	47.5	0-1	0-1
Curlew	1-2	42.4	1	0-1
Meadow Pipit	3	14.7	0-1	2-3
Wheatear	1	44.4	0-1	0-1

As can be seen from the above if the Pearce-Higgins modelling is correct snipe and curlew would decline to 0-1 pairs each within 500m of the turbine, meadow pipit would lose 0-1 pairs and wheatear 0-1 pairs. However displacement is unlikely to be significant for any of these species as all are on the periphery of the 500m buffer. As a consequence, even assuming full sensitivity, displacement effects are on the margin of existing territories and unlikely to lead to complete loss.

The Pearce-Higgins model indicates a reduction of flight activity by buzzard of 41.4%. This may lead to the loss or displacement of the buzzard nest site within the conifer woodland, particularly given the proximity of the eastern turbine. As this is a commercial plantation that may be subject to harvesting the long term future of the nest site is uncertain even in the absence of the proposed turbines.

Overall therefore impacts arising from the construction and operation of the turbines are likely to be insignificant for breeding birds, with at most, marginal declines in wader and passerine breeding territories. It is likely that one territory of buzzards will be displaced and a small risk of collision exists. Buzzards have expanded rapidly with a 10% increase in occupied squares in Scotland between 1968-77 and 1988-91, and early indications from the 2007-2011 atlas¹² that a further 14% range increase has occurred. Any losses associated with the proposal will therefore have no discernible effect on the favourable conservation status of this rapidly expanding species.

(1) Gillings, S., Swann, B., Balmer, D. and Wernham C. (2011). Bird Atlas 2007-11: Measuring Change in Bird Distribution and Abundance – *The Changing Nature of Scotland*, eds. S.J. Marrs, S. Foster, C. Hendrie, E.C. Mackey, D.B.A. Thompson. TSO Scotland, Edinburgh, pp 67-72

5.9.2 Bats

No known roost sites will be lost in the construction of the turbines and access is likely to be along tracks with little evidence of significant commuting and where ditches will remain intact. There is a possibility that the isolated Scots Pine at EX1 (see *Figure 12*) may need to be removed. This tree does attract small numbers of foraging and commuting bats. Impacts on bats are therefore most likely to arise from the operation of turbines.

Bats are known to be at risk from collisions with turbines and from barotrauma effects of proximity to blade tips¹³, and appear to show little avoidance behaviour¹⁴.

The species found using features in proximity to the proposed turbine locations are common and soprano pipistrelles. These features are the isolated Scots pine tree, potential commuting routes east-west between Bogton and the conifer wood, and the western edge of the conifer wood itself.

Both species are regarded as having a moderate risk of collision in various guidance documents, most notably the recent Natural England Technical Information Note¹⁵. Due to the large and widespread populations of both species the same Technical Note regards both as low risk in terms of population level effects from wind farms.

Evidence indicates that moving turbine tips a minimum of 50m from woodland edges and potential commuting routes in line with the formula stipulated in the Natural England guidance note significantly reduces the likelihood of harm occurring to bats.

Effects on bats are likely to be insignificant at the population level, but may have a local effect on the small maternity colony of common pipistrelles at Bogton through loss of individuals during commuting and foraging. Some minor locally adverse effect on soprano pipistrelles may also result. The application of mitigation as suggested in TIN51 would reduce effects to negligible levels.

5.10 Mitigation and enhancement

Overall the impacts of the proposed turbines are unlikely to have population level impacts, or to be significant at anything other than the local scale. Mitigation to reduce the likelihood of impacts will be incorporated into the Site Environmental Management Plan. The mitigation measures will specifically include the following aspects:

(1) Baerwald, E. F., D'Amours, G. H., Klug, B. J. & Barclay, R. M. R. 2008. *Barotrauma Is A Significant Cause Of Mortality At Wind Farms*. *Current Biology* 18 (16)

(2) Horn, J. W., Arnett, E. B., & Kunz, T. H. 2008. Behavioural Responses of Bats to Operating Wind Turbines. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72(1):123-132

(3) Mitchell-Jones, T. & Carlin, C. 2012. *Bats and onshore wind turbines Interim guidance*. Technical Information Note 051. 2nd Edition. Natural England

- Minimising land take for infrastructure by utilising existing tracks.
- Avoiding the breeding bird season for construction to reduce disturbance to breeding birds.
- Avoiding lighting of bat commuting routes and feeding areas (E3-E7-E8 and EX1) during construction.
- Ensuring that all turbines are a minimum of 50m from turbine tip to the following features;
 - Commuting route E3-E7-E8
 - The western edge of the conifer wood
 - The isolated Scots pine at EX1
- Note: the formula for calculating the distance of the turbine tip from these features is as specified in Natural England Technical Information Note TIN051Bats and onshore wind. *Interim guidance* (page 2), Second edition 29 February 2012
- If it is determined that the isolated Scots pine at EX1 requires to be removed a further survey to establish if the tree is used as a roost site will be undertaken. If a bat roost is found then a licence will be applied for supported by suitable mitigation.
- Irrespective of whether the tree is a roost site, if it is to be removed a minimum of three Scots pines will be planted in the same field but further north and closer to the woodland associated with the burn flowing through Bogton. These will be protected from sheep and cattle with appropriate fencing until fully established.

Current land management is generally positive for both birds and bats. Enhancement will include preserving and expanding to a small degree the area of marshy grassland between E4-E5 and creating a shallow scrape in the same area to improve wader chick feeding opportunities and thus creating additional feeding resource away from the turbine locations.

5.11 Conclusion

The area contains good populations of BoCC and UKBAP wading and farmland birds, and supports at least four species of bats including a probable common pipistrelle maternity colony as well as roosting *Myotis* and brown long-eared bats.

The turbine locations are in areas with the least biodiversity and impacts are therefore predicted to be minor adverse. With the application of mitigation, primarily avoiding the bird breeding season and ensuring a sufficient stand-off distance of the turbines from bat commuting and foraging areas, residual impacts will be insignificant.

6 SITE GEOLOGY, HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

6.1 Geology

The turbine cluster site lies on a gentle slope at the junction between the lowland and Highland foothills of the Grampian Highlands. Geologically, this boundary is represented by the Highland Boundary Fault which runs south west to north east across this part of Angus. The lowland of the Strathmore Valley is composed of Devonian sediments consisting locally of the Edzell Sandstones and the Edzell Mudstones. In this area, these occupy the core of the Strathmore Syncline to a combined thickness of over 1,800m. On the north west side of Edzell, a thick group of conglomerate sediments called the Gannochy Formation intervenes between the local sandstone and mudstone formations and largely replaces them. The area of the Highland Foothills is composed of strata belonging to the Upper Dalradian. The sequence consists of quartz mica schist, grit, slate and phyllite strata.

The superficial deposits in the area consist of glacial till of Quaternary age and glacial outwash deposits of sand and gravel which become coarser near to the Highland Boundary Fault (cobbles, cobble gravel) and passing into sands and finer sands as you travel further away from the higher ground. There is no peat present on the site. The surface topography is that of gently rising ground that is semi-improved grassland with good permeability.

6.2 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The site at Lower Cairny is relatively elevated and despite being adjacent to a small watercourse (The Taidy Burn), it is not subject to flooding. This is confirmed by the SEPA Flood map which highlights localised flooding in the area of the West Water only.

The development has applied a minimum buffer of 45m from the nearest watercourse, the Taidy Burn. In addition, a number of mitigation measures will be put in place to avoid surface water and groundwater pollution and any associated negative impacts. These measures are described at section 6.3.

There are no private water supplies on the site or in the immediate environs of the site. There is therefore no risk to pollution of potable water supplies.

In terms of hydrogeology, the risk to groundwater is minimal. The underlying Dalradian bedrock is largely impermeable, offering little potential for groundwater storage and transport except in cracks and joints associated with the natural jointing of the rock or near surface weathering. There are no abstractions of groundwater on the site or in the immediate environs of the site. There are no Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems on the site or nearby.

6.3 Mitigation Measures

In considering the necessary mitigation measures, strict attention has been given to the legislation and rules that relate to surface and groundwater resources management. This includes the following items:

- Attention will also be paid to the SEPA General Binding Rules 10 and 11 that relate to the discharge of surface water from a construction site as well as the relevant statutory instruments relating to surface and groundwater resources;
- The Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008;
- Good practice during windfarm construction, joint publication by Scottish Renewables, Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA, Forestry Commission Scotland;
- SEPA Land Use Planning System, Guidance Note 4, Planning guidance on windfarm developments;
- SEPA Land Use Planning System, Guidance Note 8, SEAP standing advice for planning authorities on small scale local development management consultations, Planning guidance on windfarm developments;
- Planning Advice Note 50: Controlling the environmental effects of surface mineral workings.

A number of mitigation measures have been developed and will be employed as part of a site Environment Plan that details the specific response mechanisms that will deal with issue of surface and groundwater quality. This plan and the procedures and processes described within it will help to remove the risk of pollution to surface and groundwater resources.

6.3.1 Soil and Rock Impact

Detailed site investigation work will be undertaken in the area of the turbine foundations to assess the geotechnical ground conditions. The information collected by this analysis will inform the detailed foundation design and the resultant mitigation measures that will be employed on site. Soil and rock excavated during the construction and decommissioning processes will be carefully segregated and stored separately for re-use elsewhere on the farm unit.

6.3.2 Construction Impact

Site Construction Operations will be strictly controlled by the Principal Contractor who will be signed up to the Considerate Constructors Scheme (<http://www.ccscheme.org.uk/>).

Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPGs)

The development will apply the measures contained within the various relevant Pollution Prevention Guidelines for surface and groundwater resources that are produced by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). The PPGs that will be used as part of this development relate to those of the Construction industry as recommended by SEPA:

(http://www.netregs.org.uk/library_of_topics/pollution_prevention_guides/construction_ppgs.aspx).

The guidance includes but is not limited to:

- PPG1: General guide to the prevention of water pollution;
- PPG2: Above ground storage tanks, August 2011 ;
- PPG4: Disposal of sewage where no mains drainage is available;
- PPG5: Works and maintenance in or near water;
- PPG6: Working at construction and demolition sites;

- PPG7: The safe operation of refueling facilities;
- PPG13: Vehicle washing and cleaning;
- PPG18: Managing fire water and major spillages; and
- PPG21: Pollution incident response planning.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Good Practice Guide to the Storage and Handling of soils, 2000

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

The development will make use of SUDS in order to minimize the impact of runoff from any temporary or permanent hardstand facilities such as roads, paths, storage facilities and so on.

The full details of how the mitigation measures contained within the guidance above that will be employed on the site is detailed in Appendix 6.

7 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

7.1 Introduction

Aims and objectives

This section provides an assessment of the potential for direct and indirect impacts upon the cultural heritage resource within the development boundary and the wider historic landscape, arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of two proposed turbines at Lower Cairny.

The specific objectives of the cultural heritage study are to:

- Identify the archaeological baseline and potential of the proposed wind cluster development area and its immediate vicinity;
- Assess the predicted and potential direct impacts of the construction and operation of the turbines upon the cultural heritage resource within the development boundary;
- Propose measures, where necessary to mitigate predicted adverse direct impacts;
- Identify key cultural heritage receptors in the wider historic landscape whose setting could be indirectly affected by the proposed turbines;
- Assess the predicted and potential indirect impacts of the development upon the settings of key cultural receptors in the wider historic landscape.

7.2 Potential effects of wind cluster development upon cultural heritage

The physical impact of construction activity arising from the development has the potential to destroy archaeological deposits, monuments and historic structures; destroy parts of archaeological deposits, monuments and historic structures; and to alter the burial environment of archaeological deposits which may result in accelerated rates of deterioration and consequential destruction of deposits.

Direct impacts upon the cultural heritage resource caused by construction activities will always be major and adverse unless effectively mitigated.

Where effective mitigation is implemented, cultural heritage assets will be preserved *in situ* or preserved by record. Positive outcomes of mitigation can result in improved understanding and interpretation of the asset; previously unavailable information being made available to a wider audience; and increased public understanding and enjoyment of cultural heritage.

The indirect impact of the two turbines as a new feature in the landscape has the potential to affect the setting of cultural heritage assets. The archaeological/historical context, visual appearance and the aesthetic qualities of a site's surroundings are important to the intrinsic value of certain cultural heritage features and to our modern perceptions and experience of some sites. The alteration of those qualities has the potential to impact negatively upon site character and value.

Indirect impacts caused by wind farms are assumed to be adverse i.e. the introduction of a turbines is at best, neutral with regard to impacts upon the setting of cultural heritage.

7.3 Legislation, Guidance and Planning Policy

A series of designations have been applied to historic environment sites in Scotland, at international, national and local level. At an international level, the United Kingdom government is party to the Valletta Convention, the European convention on the protection of archaeological heritage. Article 2 notes that States must have a legal system for the protection of the archaeological heritage, on land and under water. Article 4 requires provision for ‘the conservation and maintenance of the archaeological heritage preferably *in situ*’.

At a national level, the relevant legislation relating to the historic environment includes:

- the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (“the 1953 Act”) (amended by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011),
- the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (amended by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011),
- the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, (amended by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011),
- the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997,
- the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006,

A statement of the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters is given in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP 2010). Further guidance is provided by Historic Scotland, an executive agency of the Scottish Government that is charged with safeguarding the nation’s historic environment. Historic Scotland has set out the Scottish Government's policy on the historic environment in Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP, revised 2011) and has published a series of guidance notes, Managing Change in the Historic Environment, intended to explain how to apply the policies contained in the SHEP (2009, revised 2011) and the SPP (2010). Advice and information on technical planning matters is included in a Planning Advice Note PAN 2/2011 PLANNING AND ARCHAEOLOGY. Together, these documents set out the Scottish Ministers’ policies for planning and the historic environment and are the documents to which planning authorities are directed in their consideration of applications affecting the historic environment and the setting of individual elements of the historic environment.

7.4 Definition of the Historic Environment

The SPP notes that the *historic environment includes ancient monuments, archaeological sites and landscape, historic buildings, townscapes, parks, gardens and designed landscapes and other features. It comprises both statutory and non-statutory designations. The location of historic features in the landscape and the patterns of past use are part of the historic environment* (SPP 2010, section 111).

7.5 Protection of the Historic Environment

The SPP states that *when significant elements of the historic environment are likely to be affected by development proposals, developers should take the preservation of this significance into account in their proposal* (SPP 2010, section 112). It further states that factors that should be taken into account when making decisions on renewable energy generation developments are likely to include impacts on the historic environment (SPP 2010, section 185). The SHEP states that *there should be a presumption in favour of preservation of individual historic assets and also the pattern of the wider historic environment; no historic asset should be lost or radically changed without adequate consideration of its significance and of all the means available to manage and conserve it* (SHEP 1.14 b, p8). However, the SHEP notes that the protection of the historic environment is not about preventing change. Ministers believe that change in this dynamic environment should be managed intelligently and with understanding, to achieve the best outcome for the historic environment and for the people of Scotland. Such decisions often have to recognise economic realities (SHEP 1.8; p6). It further recognises that the historic environment faces many challenges, including the needs of renewable energy generation (SHEP 1.9; p6).

7.6 National designations applied to the Historic Environment

In order to assist with the protection of the historic environment, a series of statutory and non-statutory designations have been applied to historic environment sites. Sites with statutory designations include:

- Ancient Monuments (designated through scheduling)
- Buildings and other structures (which are designated through listing)
- Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Conservation Areas
- Historic Martine Protected Areas (not relevant to this application)
- Historic Battlefields (not relevant to this application)

7.7 Definitions of sites with statutory and non-statutory designations

The following definitions are taken from the SPP and SHEP, with reference to the relevant Acts.

Listed Buildings

Listed buildings are buildings of special architectural or historic interest. They are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Listed Buildings are divided into categories A (national or international importance), B (regional or more than local importance), or C(S) (buildings of local importance). Under section 59(1) of the 1997 Act, the planning authority, in determining any application for planning permission for development that affects a listed building or its setting, is required to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Ancient Monuments

Ancient monuments include archaeological sites, buildings or structures of national or international importance. They are a finite and non-renewable resource that offer a tangible, physical link with the past and are protected under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

through scheduling. The purpose of scheduling is to secure the long term legal protection of the monument, in-situ and as far as possible in its existing state and within an appropriate setting.

Annex 7 paragraph 3 of the SHEP notes that securing the preservation of a scheduled monument '*within an appropriate setting*' as required by national policy is solely a matter for the planning system. *Whether any particular development will have an adverse impact on the setting of a scheduled monument is a matter of professional judgement. It will depend upon such variables as the nature, extent, design of the development proposed, the characteristics of the monument in question, its relationship to other monuments in the vicinity, its current landscape setting and its contribution to our understanding and appreciation of the monument.* Historic Scotland's guidance note Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (October 2010) provides more detail on how to assess setting.

Some monuments are both scheduled and listed. Where this is the case only scheduled monument consent is required for any works.

Conservation Areas

Conservation areas are 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Gardens and designed landscapes have been defined as grounds which have been laid out for artistic effect. They are often the setting of important buildings and, in addition to parkland, woodland, water and formal garden elements, can often have significant archaeological and scientific interest (SHEP 2.65). There is no primary legislation that gives protection to gardens and designed landscapes. However, regulation 25 and paragraph 5(4) (a) of Schedule 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 requires planning authorities to consult Scottish ministers on '*development which may affect...a garden or designed landscape*'. The effect of a proposed development on a garden or designed landscape should be a consideration in decisions on planning applications. Change should be managed to ensure that the significant elements justifying designation are protected or enhanced.

Properties in Care

Historic Scotland cares for 345 ancient monuments on behalf of Scottish ministers. The majority are held by guardianship, but some are held by ownership (around a fifth of the estate), and a small number by leasehold. The powers of the Scottish ministers' relating to the estate of properties in care are enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 It is recognised that properties in care are more than the sum of their constituent parts. Many have outstanding landscape or picturesque values and settings.

Other non-designated historic environment assets

The SPP notes that *archaeological sites and monuments are an important, finite and non-renewable resource and should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. The presence and potential presence of archaeological assets should be considered... ..when making decisions on planning applications. Where preservation in-situ is not possible planning authorities should, through the use of conditions or a legal agreement, ensure that developers undertake appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and/or during development* (paragraph 123).

In Angus, non-designated historic environment assets are included within the Angus Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), managed by the Archaeology Service of Aberdeenshire Council.

7.8 Regional and Local Planning Policy Guidelines

The Angus Local Plan

The Angus Local Plan has been successively developed and revised (Adopted Angus Local Plan (2000), The Finalised Angus Local Plan Review 2005). The policies were again reviewed in the Angus Local Plan Review (2009).

The Angus Local Plan Review (2009) establishes the development plan policies to be taken into account when assessing proposals for renewable energy projects – policies *ER34 Renewable Energy Development* and *ER35 Wind Energy Development*. With regard to renewable energy and the historic environment, Policy ER34 states that proposals for all forms of renewable energy developments should be assessed against several requirements, including:

(c) the development will have no significant detrimental effect on any sites designated for nature conservation, scientific, historic or archaeological reasons

Policy ER18 sets out the requirements to safeguard archaeological sites of national importance.

An Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Proposals (June 2012) clarifies and expands on Local Plan Review Policies ER34 and ER35 and those factors that will be taken into account in considering and advising on proposals for renewable energy projects in Angus. Table 2 of the Implementation Guide states that proposed turbines of any height require supporting information that should:

identify historic and archaeological sites affected by the proposal, proportionate with the scale and number of turbines; the effect of the proposal and all associated works on the integrity of a site, its setting; requirements for archaeological survey and recording; and any proposed mitigation measures.

A Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Angus Local Development Plan (The Angus Local Development Plan Main Issues Report A Strategic Environmental Assessment: ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT) was published in November 2012. This notes that there is support for wind turbine development (Option 5a), stating:

This option is likely to have significant positive/beneficial impacts on Climatic Factors through increased renewable energy generation. Probable long term positive cumulative impacts from tackling greenhouse gas emissions and their contribution to tackling the effects of climate change including where appropriate their effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna. While wind turbine development has significant potential to have negative impacts on Nature Conservation interests, landscape and Cultural Heritage, the nature and scale of the impacts is dependent on the location, scale and nature of any proposed wind turbine development. The purpose of policies and spatial framework prepared under this option will be to support wind turbine development in the most appropriate locations while protecting important environmental assets of Angus, including taking account of cumulative landscape and visual impact.

The Dundee and Angus Structure Plan 2001-2016

The Dundee and Angus Structure Plan DASP (2002) established strategic policy and reflected national planning policy at the time. It noted that proposals for renewable energy development would be favourably considered where they delivered quantifiable environmental and economic benefits and any significant or cumulative adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment were satisfactorily addressed. DASP was replaced by The TAYplan Strategic Development Plan on 8 June 2012.

TAYplan: Scotland's SusTAYnable Region Strategic Development Plan 2012-2032

TAYplan notes that there is an aim to reduce resource consumption through provision of energy and waste/resource management infrastructure in order to contribute to Scottish Government ambitions for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. It also aims to contribute towards greater regional energy self-sufficiency. It notes that Local Development Plans and development proposals should ensure that all.. decisions on development proposals for energy management infrastructure have been justified, at a minimum, on the basis of several considerations, including the sensitivity of landscapes... tourism, recreational access and listed/scheduled buildings and structures;

Policy 3 of TAYplan notes that one aim of the plan is understanding and respecting the regional distinctiveness and scenic value of the area through safeguarding, amongst other things, 'archaeology, historic buildings and monuments and allow development where it does not adversely impact upon or preferably enhances these assets.'

Angus Windfarms Assessment Landscape Capacity Study

A review of windfarm development in Angus, together with a landscape capacity study was published in 2008 (Angus Windfarms Assessment Landscape Capacity Study).

7.9 Setting

The proposal at Cairny does not physically impact upon any designated or non-designated historic environment assets. However, as noted in the above discussion, setting is an important consideration when discussing the effect of developments on the historic environment.

Definition of setting

Section 112 of the SPP notes that there should be an *assessment of the impact of proposed development on the historic environment and its setting*. The SPP states that *...setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from around, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building*.

The Historic Scotland guidance note, *Managing Change in the Historic Environment – Setting* (October 2010) notes that setting should be thought of as *...the way in which the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is experienced, understood and appreciated*. It notes that *monuments, buildings, gardens and settlements were not constructed in isolation* and that *...setting often extends beyond the immediate property boundary of a historic structure into the broader landscape*.

The guidance records several factors that contribute to setting (p 4), including:

- *visual envelope, incorporating views to, from and across the historic asset or place;*

- *key vistas, framed by rows of trees, buildings or natural features that give an asset or place a context, whether intentional or not;*
- *the prominence of the historic asset or place in views throughout the surrounding area;*
- *character of the surrounding landscape;*
- *general and specific views including foregrounds and backdrops;*
- *relationships between both built and natural features.*

Stages to assessing the impact of change upon setting

Managing Change in the Historic Environment – Setting states that there are three stages to assessing the impact of change upon setting:

- Stage 1: identify the historic assets that might be affected a proposed change.
- Stage 2: define the setting by establishing how the surroundings contribute to the ways in which the historic asset or place is understood, appreciated and experienced.
- Stage 3: assess how any change would impact upon that setting.

This report on the historic environment has followed the guidance outlined in the national and local plans and guidance notes. It has used the definitions of setting provided by Historic Scotland and has followed the stages of assessing the impact of change on setting as defined in Managing Change in the Historic Environment.

7.10 Methodology

Consultations

Written requests for comments and identification of key issues arising from the proposed development were sent to Historic Scotland and Angus Council during the Scoping phase of the assessment. A meeting was held with Historic Scotland’s Senior Development Assessment (EIA) Officer, Robin Campbell and colleagues for follow up discussion of specific sites raised in Scoping as of particular sensitivity. These included: The Caterthuns hillforts; White Caterthuns houses, cairns and fields; Newbigging hut circle; Bridgend cairn; Hill of Menmuir fields and cairns; Edzell Castle and Castle Hillock motte.

Definition of the study area

Two study areas were defined in order to meet the aims and objectives of the assessment:

The development site study area

For the purposes of assessing construction phase impacts upon the cultural heritage resource within the development site, the development site study area includes a c. 1000m buffer extending from the site boundary. The buffer was further extended on the western development site boundary to capture a group of sites which fell just outside the 1000m radius but were considered relevant to the wider context of the area. The buffer ensures that cultural heritage assets noted within the development area are placed in a wider context and that cultural heritage assets in the immediate vicinity of the development

site are included in the case of possible impact by peripheral activities associated with construction and decommissioning.

The wider study area

For the purposes of the identification of key cultural heritage receptors in the wider historic landscape the search area in this report focuses on designated heritage within the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) up to 10km from the development boundary.

Data parameters

Every cultural heritage asset within the development site study area was considered in the assessment of direct and indirect impacts of the wind farm development. This includes all known designated and non-statutory recorded heritage, and was supplemented by additional desk-based research and site walkover survey.

Within the wider study area, designated heritage assets of medium and high sensitivity (see Table 7.1 below for definitions of sensitivity) were selected for assessment of indirect impacts of the wind farm upon setting. This includes Scheduled Monuments; Conservation Areas; Properties in Care and Listed Buildings of individual or group Category A and B status. Category C(S) listed buildings were rapidly assessed but not considered in detail unless they form part of a Category A or B group or are located within a designated policy. Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes are assessed as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment in Section 4 of this report.

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) was constructed and used to filter designated cultural heritage receptors within the wider study area which would have potential theoretical views of one or more turbines. This information is presented in Figure 7.2 and Appendix 7 Table 2. The assessment of the theoretical number of turbines visible given in the appendices is based on the 'bare ground' ZTV plan, Figure 7.2. The actual visibility is based on site visits to each heritage asset.

Data collection

All work has been conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 2006) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (IFA 2008).

The following sources have been consulted:

- National Monuments Record Scotland (NMRS) for NMRS data;
- Angus Council Historic Environment Record;
- Historic Scotland (HS) for data on Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Conservation Areas and Properties in Care;
- Map Library of the National Library of Scotland for Ordnance Survey maps and other historic maps to provide information on historic land use, and any unrecorded sites of historical or archaeological interest;

- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) vertical aerial photographic collection to provide information on recent historic land use, and to identify any unrecorded sites of historical or archaeological interest;
- Relevant bibliographic sources were consulted for general background and historical context.

A walkover of the development site was undertaken to assess the current condition of recorded cultural heritage sites, to record current land use, and to assess the potential for undiscovered or unrecorded cultural heritage sites within the development area. A photographic record of the site, the environs and every heritage asset visited was compiled.

Site visits were made to every Scheduled Monument (SAM) and Category A and B listed buildings with theoretical views of the wind farm within the wider study area to experience and assess their current setting and the potential impact of the development upon it.

7.11 Impact Assessment Methodology

Types of impact of the proposed wind farm on the cultural heritage resource are assessed in the following categories:

Direct impacts: where there will be a physical impact on a site caused by the proposed development. Direct impacts may be caused by a range of activities during the *construction phase* of development, including ground disturbing excavations for turbine foundations; crane pads; access tracks; borrow pits; storage and compound areas and cable and service trenches. Direct impacts may also occur during the *decommissioning phase* of development. Direct impacts on cultural heritage features are normally adverse, permanent and irreversible.

Indirect impacts: where the setting of a site may be affected. Indirect impacts persist through the *operational phase* of the turbines and arise from the introduction of a new element in the landscape. This may result in, changes to views to or from cultural heritage features with important landscape settings; fragmentation of the historic landscape and the loss of connection between its component parts; and the introduction of noise and vibration. Indirect impacts caused by wind farms are assumed to be adverse i.e. the introduction of a wind farm is at best neutral with regard to impacts upon the setting of cultural heritage.

Assessment criteria

The assessment of significance of both construction and operational phase impacts was undertaken using two key criteria: the **sensitivity** of the receptor and the **magnitude** of the predicted effect. These criteria are combined to provide an assessment of the **significance of impacts** of the development on the receptor. Impacts that are major or major/moderate are considered to be significant as required by the *Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999*.

Sensitivity of the receptor

The assessment of the sensitivity of a cultural heritage asset to direct and indirect impacts is based upon a rating of its heritage value, i.e. the relative significance of the asset in terms of the nation's heritage. This has been guided by criteria used by Historic Scotland for scheduling ancient monuments and classifying listed buildings. Monuments are generally considered for scheduling based upon factors such as age, rarity, condition and archaeological context, while listed buildings are designated and categorised based upon similar criteria as well as technical innovation/virtuosity, architectural design and associations with well-known architects, historical persons or events. In some cases a site or building which does not have a protective designation assigned to it could nonetheless still be rated as having the same significance as another one which is protected. This is because the selection of items for listing and scheduling is an ongoing national activity. The criteria for judging archaeological significance are gradually evolving, and in some cases, important buildings or monuments may have been overlooked during listing, or could now be judged worthy of listing, whereas they were not previously.

Table 7.1: Summary of the criteria used in this study to assess the relative sensitivity of a cultural heritage feature

Sensitivity	Criteria
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Sites • Scheduled Ancient Monuments (actual and potential) • Category A Listed Buildings • Inventory status Gardens and Designed Landscapes
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological sites and monuments of distinctive regional importance • Category B Listed Buildings • Conservation Areas
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological sites and monuments of local importance • Category C (S) Listed Buildings • Unlisted buildings, structures of historic or architectural interest
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated find spots, finds or features removed from their context

Impact Magnitude

The magnitude of impacts caused by the development upon the cultural heritage resource has been rated according to the criteria summarised in Table 7.2.

Table 7.2: Summary of the criteria used in this study to assess the magnitude of impact of the proposed wind farm development upon cultural heritage

Impact magnitude	Criteria
Substantial	Total loss or substantial changes to key elements of the baseline conditions such that the post development character (whether to its physical integrity or to its setting) will be fundamentally changed.
Moderate	Loss or alteration to one or more key elements of a monument's baseline condition such that the post-development character (whether to its physical integrity or to its setting) will be materially changed.
Slight	A minor shift away from baseline conditions. Change arising from alteration will be detectable but not material. The underlying character of the baseline conditions will be similar to the pre-development situation
Negligible	Very little change, barely distinguishable from baseline conditions
None	No predicted impact

Impact Significance

The significance of the effects on resources/receptors can be determined from the following matrix:

Table 7.3: Matrix used in this study to determine the significance of impact of the proposed wind farm development upon cultural heritage

Magnitude	Sensitivity		
	High	Medium	Low
Substantial	Major*	Major/Moderate*	Moderate
Moderate	Major/Moderate*	Moderate	Moderate/Minor
Slight	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor
Negligible	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Negligible

*Effects that are major or major/moderate should be deemed to be significant for the purposes of the ES (and EIA regulations).

7.12 Existing Cultural Heritage Baseline

(Site reference numbers in bold.)

Introduction

The development site study area

Figure 7.1 shows the development site boundary and the location of all known cultural heritage sites within the development site study area up to 1,000m.

Appendix 7: Table 1 summarises the environmental baseline of cultural heritage assets located within the development site study area and provides an assessment of the sensitivity of each asset.

There are 18 cultural heritage sites recorded on the Angus Historic Environment Record within the development site study area. None fall within the areas of potential direct impact arising from construction activities associated with the wind farm development.

The wider study area

There are 30 Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the wider study area which have potential theoretical views of one or more turbines according to the bare earth ZTV model. Three of these (The Caterthuns, Edzell Castle and Lindsay Burial Aisle) are also properties in the care of Historic Scotland. Fettercairn Conservation Area, which lies on the 10km boundary to the northeast of the proposed development, has potential theoretical views of the turbines.

There are 53 Listed Buildings of medium and high sensitivity from which there would be theoretical views of one or more turbines. Of these, 6 are Category A and 47 are Category B. The majority of Listed Buildings are associated with historic settlements or properties of Edzell, Fettercairn, Strathcaro and Newtonmill.

Figure 7.2 shows the location of all designated cultural heritage receptors included in this study within 10km of the site boundary that fall within the bare earth ZTV and have potential theoretical views of one or more turbines.

Appendix 7: Table 2 provides tabulated information on the baseline character and current setting of designated cultural heritage receptors included in this study within a 10km radius of the proposed wind farm that fall within the ZTV.

Overview of the development site study area

Of the 18 sites recorded within the development site study area, 2 are prehistoric. These are a possible recumbent stone circle (**16**), destroyed in the 19th century, which was probably Bronze Age and the earthwork remains of Newbigging hut circle (**18**), which could be Bronze or Iron Age in date. A 19th century description of the stone circle describes a large cairn surrounded by a double circle of 20-30 stones. When it was dismantled and removed in the mid-19th century, a quantity of black clammy earth mixed with charcoal was recorded within the cairn. Flint arrowheads were also reported in the vicinity prior to 1853. Newbigging hut circle is a scheduled monument (**6874**). Its setting in relation to the proposed development is discussed below. Both of these monuments are located at around 1.5km distance from the nearest proposed turbine.

Thirteen sites are recorded as Post-medieval. Two groups of clearance cairns (**9** and **12**) are tentatively assigned to the medieval or post-medieval period; and the date of a fishing weight (**2**) is unknown. The

sites relate to historic settlement and agriculture around Lower Cairny. A cluster to the northeast of the development boundary (**5**, **6**, **8**) comprise the ruinous and earthwork remains of a farmstead, rig and furrow and an extant boundary stone at Redfaulds. Earthwork remains of buildings and rig and furrow (**7**, **14**) are also located just to the north of Witton, (**11**) a post medieval farmstead, now called Lark Hall Cottage, which is still occupied. A further cluster of sites (**9**, **12**, **13**, **17**) located west southwest of the development site boundary at Newbigging comprise plough damaged slight earthwork remains of a rectangular building and two groups of around ten small clearance cairns. The remains of a building at site **13** have been identified as likely to be the remains of the *Castle of Dennyfern*. The remains of a building at **17** are possibly related to a former farmstead of *Touffat* referred to in Ainslie's map of 1794. The numerous small clearance cairns may relate to agricultural clearance associated with these post medieval farmsteads.

Post medieval landscape and land use can be traced through map regression. The 1st Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1865 and the first revision of 1892-1905 show the development area in sufficient detail. John Ainslie's 1794 map of the County of Forfar is useful for general context.

The 1st Edition OS surveyed in 1863, shows that by the mid-19th century, the limit of improved land had extended up Cairny Hill to around the 250m contour, only 50m lower than the general limit today. Oldtown, Bogton and Witton are depicted as occupied farmsteads. A sheepfold is located near site **7**, recorded as the remains of a farmstead. A small rectangular building with an attached double enclosure is depicted within the present shelter belt on the eastern site boundary (site **4**). Nothing now remains here. Around Newbigging, to the west of the development area, the 1st Edition records the remains of the stone circle (**16**), and misidentifies the Newbigging hut circle (**18**) as the Castle of Dennyfern. Building **17** is already unroofed.

Results of the walkover survey

A walkover of the development area was undertaken on the 16th September 2012. There is good access over the site and good views over the entire development area.

The site has a southeast facing aspect. The ground gently slopes upwards from the road at its southern boundary to the end of the shelter belt that forms the eastern site boundary. Here there is a break of slope and the ground steepens to the summit of Cairny Hill.

The gently sloping southern half of the development site, below the 160m contour, is under cultivation and had just been cut for silage. The northern half of the site is improved grassland.

One possible new site was identified as a result of the walkover survey and subsequent inspection of aerial satellite images. This comprises the possible remains of 20+ small clearance cairns and at least one low relief D-shaped earthwork enclosure. These are located in an area between Bogton and Oldtown centred on NGR 354964 770130 (site **19**) Figure 7.1). They are similar in form and extent to the clusters of features identified as possible medieval or post medieval clearance cairns at Newbigging (**9**, **12**). The 1st Edition OS map depicts both areas of possible cairns as hummocky marshy ground. The new site falls outwith the development boundary.

No further visible evidence in the landscape, other than that already recorded, relating to archaeological remains of any period within the development boundary was noted in the walkover survey.

Assessment of sensitivity of known cultural heritage features within the development site study area

Appendix 7: Table 1 summarises the assessment of sensitivity for every known cultural heritage asset within the development site study area. The assessment was made using criteria outlined in Table 1 of this section, and based upon recorded information, site visits and professional judgement.

Except for the scheduled remains of the hut circle at Newbigging, there are no individual sites of greater than local significance within the area of development and all have either **low** or, in the case of documentary records of destroyed sites and findspots, **negligible** sensitivity.

Archaeological potential of the proposed development area

The desk-based investigation and site walkover surveys have enabled the land use history of the development area to be reconstructed with some degree of confidence from the mid-19th century to the present day. The work has shown that the area within which the turbines and associated infrastructure will be constructed, was already improved land in the mid-19th century, and has been ploughed since at least then.

The presence of three clusters of probable medieval or post medieval clearance cairns in association with post medieval farmsteads indicates that cultivation of the gentler lower slopes of Cairny Hill, probably extends back at least into the 18th century and probably further.

This long history of arable land use is likely to have had a profound detrimental impact on the survival and condition of any buried archaeological deposits within the cultivated areas. Evidence for the already significant damage caused by cultivation upon cultural heritage comes from the recorded removal of the stone circle, the historic reports of flint artefacts and the either total destruction or poor condition of recorded archaeological sites recorded in cultivated areas. If archaeological deposits are present, there is a high potential that they have been severely truncated.

For the post-medieval and modern periods, there is a very low potential of unknown archaeological deposits and remains to exist within the development area, due to the relatively detailed spatial and historical information available for these periods in the historical record.

There are no references to medieval sites within the development site study area and the likelihood of encountering unknown medieval archaeological deposits within the area of construction impact is assessed to be low.

Artefacts and monuments of the prehistoric period are recorded in the vicinity of the development area. This shows there is some potential for unrecorded prehistoric remains within the local area. However, the potential for unknown prehistoric deposits to be encountered within the areas of construction impact is tempered by the very small footprint of ground disturbance and the strong likelihood that any deposits will have suffered significant damage as a result of the agricultural history of the area.

7.13 Impact Assessment

Direct impacts

New construction elements associated with the development of the wind farm include two turbine bases (15m x 15m); two crane pads and hard standing assembly areas (48m x 22m), a temporary site compound; and a switch gear and meter house (3m x 4.2m). The existing farm tracks will be upgraded and used to access the site. Improvements to the track do not entail further ground disturbance.

Predicted impacts of construction upon known cultural heritage features within the development area

No known monuments within the site boundary are predicted to be affected by construction activities.

The predicted impact magnitude upon any features within the area of construction is predicted to be **none**.

The predicted significance of construction impact upon existing recorded cultural heritage sites is, therefore predicted to be **negligible**.

Potential impact of construction upon unknown cultural heritage

The most potential for unexpected discoveries within the area of construction is of buried prehistoric features and objects. The evidence indicates that deposits would probably already be damaged as a result of agricultural impact. There is no evidence to suggest any unknown remains within the areas of construction are likely to be more than of local significance, or **low** sensitivity.

The magnitude of construction impacts upon buried, unknown archaeological deposits in all cases is assessed to be **substantial**.

The resulting impact significance upon buried, unknown archaeological deposits is assessed to be **moderate**.

However, the assessment of impact significance must be balanced with the extremely low chance of encountering prehistoric deposits within the small areas of ground disturbance, and the consequent quality of information that is possible to be recovered from such limited excavations.

Potential direct impacts of decommissioning upon cultural heritage features

Decommissioning of the turbines is not anticipated to have any direct effects upon buried cultural heritage as no further land take will occur during this stage.

7.14 Mitigation

Mitigation of direct impacts

Construction

The extent of the proposed groundworks is very limited. The most extensive works relate to the creation of areas of hard standing for assembly of the turbines and the site compound. The construction of these will not impact below the current plough level. The groundworks will not result in disturbance that is greater than would occur in normal agricultural operations. There is also a very low potential of encountering *in situ* archaeological deposits during construction. For these reasons, no mitigation measures are proposed.

Decommissioning

Existing infrastructure will be used or reinstated for all decommissioning activities. There are no expected direct effects upon buried cultural heritage as no further land take will occur during this stage.

Mitigation of indirect impacts

Decisions relating to the number, scale, siting and layout of the turbines have evolved during the design process to minimise the operational impact of the wind farm upon nearby settlement, the surrounding landscape and key cultural heritage receptors identified during the Scoping Phase, and particularly the impact upon the Caterthuns.

The scale and siting of the turbines, along with the screening effect of local topography and existing woods, plantations and tree belts has resulted in only 6 designated cultural heritage sites within the 10km study area as having potential actual views of the turbines.

A summary of the present setting and the results of the impact assessment for each of the 84 designated cultural heritage assets considered within the 10km of the proposed development, with theoretical views of the turbines according to a bare earth model, is given in Appendix 7: Table 2.

Mitigation of the operational impact of the wind farm has, therefore, been embedded within the design process, and no further specific mitigation of the effects on the setting of designated heritage is proposed.

7.15 Residual Impacts

Because mitigation of indirect impacts has been embedded into the design of the wind farm from the earliest stages, all indirect impacts are considered to be residual.

This section considers the residual effects of indirect impacts upon the six scheduled monuments identified in site visits as having potential actual views of one or more of the proposed turbines. These are summarised in Table 7.4 below.

Table 7.4: Summary of impacts upon cultural heritage receptors with potential actual views of the Lower Cairny turbines, based on site visits.

Site name	Sensitivity	Theoretical number of turbines visible	Distance from nearest turbine (km)	Impact magnitude	Impact significance	Factors affecting visibility
Newbigging, hut circle	HIGH	2	1.3	MODERATE	MAJOR/MODERATE	Clear view of turbines looking eastwards.
Hill of Menmuir, fields and cairns	HIGH	0-2	4	NEGLIGIBLE	MINOR	Development site back dropped by hills and difficult to make out from the scheduled area. Possible partial views of turbine tips from the higher ground in the north western part of the scheduled area.
White Caterthun, houses, cairns and fields	HIGH	0-2	4	NEGLIGIBLE	MINOR	There are partial views of the development site from the northern edge of the scheduled area, and so possible fragmented and occasional views of turbines, but conifer tree belts screen most views north eastwards.

Site name	Sensitivity	Theoretical number of turbines visible	Distance from nearest turbine (km)	Impact magnitude	Impact significance	Factors affecting visibility
The Caterthuns, hill forts	HIGH	2	3.5	SLIGHT	MODERATE	<p><u>Brown Caterthun:</u> The development site comes into view from the summit northwards. The turbines would be clearly visible but back dropped by higher ground behind them. Because of their position at a relatively low altitude in relation to the view from the summit, they would appear as features below your natural line of sight.</p> <p><u>White Caterthun:</u> The development site is clearly visible along the path up to the summit and from the ramparts around their north and east end. There would be clear views of the turbines from these areas. There are no theoretical or actual views of the turbines from the west and southern stretches of rampart. The ramparts obscure views of the turbines from anywhere within the summit enclosure of the White Caterthun.</p> <p><u>Intervisibility between Caterthuns:</u> There is no view of the turbines when looking south eastwards from the Brown Caterthun to the White Caterthun. When looking from the White Caterthun north eastwards across to the Brown Caterthun, the turbines would be a peripheral feature to the north, at a much lower elevation, so below the line of sight.</p>

Site name	Sensitivity	Theoretical number of turbines visible	Distance from nearest turbine (km)	Impact magnitude	Impact significance	Factors affecting visibility
Ballownie, mound	HIGH	0-2	8	SLIGHT	MODERATE/MINOR	Within woodland. Turbines would be visible as distant features, back dropped against high ground behind them, only from the north western edge of the site.
Bridgend, cairn	HIGH	2	1.3	SLIGHT	MODERATE/MINOR	Only the upper western part of Cairny Hill is visible from the monument, so it is possible that the tips of the turbines may be seen as a worst case scenario.

It is not considered that the noise generated by the turbines will have a significant additional effect on the appreciation of designated heritage over the distances involved as these are at least as far from the turbines as residential receptors on which the potential effects of noise have been taken into account in the scheme design. Similarly, the movement of the turbine blades is not considered to be a significant factor over and above the visual presence of the turbines over the distances involved.

Newbigging hut circle (6874)

Newbigging hut circle comprises a circular earthwork bank approximately 3m wide and 0.4m high with an entrance on the southeast side. The monument is located in a ploughed field on the lower slopes of the Hill of Formal. Ploughing right up to the edge of the monument is truncating and damaging the base of the banks. There is also evidence of rabbit burrowing into the banks. The northern side of the monument is partially truncated by a later boundary wall. The hollowed centre of the monument is filled with a modern clearance cairn.

The monument is located 1.5km from the nearest turbine, and it is assessed that there would be clear views of at least the upper parts of the turbines from the site. During the operational period of the wind farm, the turbines will be experienced as a relatively prominent landscape feature when looking eastwards from the hut circle.

The condition of the monument and the modern agricultural landscape within which Newbigging hut circle is now situated has resulted in the total loss of its contemporary landscape setting. There are no other surviving contemporary monuments or features in the vicinity. The deposits immediately below the earthwork may be intact and have archaeological value. However the monument's setting has not survived.

The magnitude of impact to the setting of the monument is assessed to be moderate to slight, because of the loss of its setting; a result of long-term historic land use as well as modern agricultural practise. It is not considered that the monument will be harmed by the presence of the turbines and that the significance of the impact is predicted to be **moderate**.

Hill of Menmuir fields and cairns (4464)

The monument is described as slight earthwork banks of at least 21 open ended rectangular fields which underlie 50+ small clearance cairns. It is a multi-period site, although the fields are likely to be prehistoric and could be contemporary with settlement at White Caterthun and the Caterthuns themselves. There are clear uninterrupted views from the Hill of Menmuir to the Caterthuns.

Although viewed in low light conditions during the field visit, the earthwork banks of the fields were very difficult to make out on the ground. Much of the scheduled area is covered in heather and long grass. The development site was only visible from the higher ground in the northeast of the scheduled area. Even then, it was difficult to make out. It is possible, but not certain that turbine tips could be seen from this part of the site. If visible, they would appear as distant elements, back dropped by higher ground behind them.

The magnitude of impact to the setting of the monument is assessed to be negligible due to the minimal views of the turbines from a limited area within the scheduled area. The important view in terms of setting of the monument is with the Caterthuns, and the presence of the turbines would not affect this at all. The significance of the impact is predicted to be **minor**.

White Caterthun houses, cairns and fields (4571)

The monument is described as consisting of 3 ring ditched houses, small cairns and a system of rectangular fields defined by slight turf banks. It is likely they are contemporary with the construction and/or use of the Caterthuns and the settlement may be particularly associated with the White Caterthun, on the lower south western slope of which it is situated. The remains are located in an extremely boggy and tussocky ground. In September when the site visits were undertaken, the long grass and boggy terrain made identification of earthworks impossible. A substantial conifer tree plantation along the northern boundary of the scheduled area and undulating ground screens the proposed development site from view. It is possible that an occasional and fragmented view of a turbine may be seen from the higher ground on the northern part of the site.

The magnitude of impact to the setting of the monument is assessed to be negligible due to the partial and fragmented views of the turbines from a limited area within the scheduled area. It is possible there will be no views at all. The significance of the impact is predicted to be **minor**.

The Caterthuns hillforts (90069)

The Brown and White Caterthuns are multivallate hillforts, characterised by multiple enclosing works of varying form and scale that date to the pre-Roman Iron Age. They occupy twin summits of the Menmuir

ridge – a line of low foothills that define the boundary between the lowland tract of Strathmore to the southeast, and the mountainous terrain of the Braes of Angus beyond the valley of the West Water to the north. From the summits of the hillforts, panoramic views encompass mountain and coast and take in every detail and feature of the landscape and elements within it; a factor that must have been important in the siting of the monuments.

Other enclosed settlements referred to as ‘forts’ in the vicinity of the Caterthuns and likely to be contemporary with them include, the nearby Mains of Edzell, (now a cropmark site); the vitrified fort of Green Cairn near Fettercairn 5km to the northeast (largely destroyed); the vitrified fort of Finavon; and the multivallate forts on Turin Hill, both around 7km to the southwest.

The enclosing works of the Brown Caterthun today survive as a series of six low earth banks with multiple gaps, progressively encircling the slopes of the summit. Excavations have revealed a walled enclosure at the summit and evidence for palisading along earth bank outer works. It is also suggested that archaeologically invisible features such as hedges or thorn fences could have topped the earthen ramparts. The slopes of the White Caterthun are also encircled by low earth banks; however, contrastingly the flat summit is completely enclosed by a massive stone rampart, the scale of which even today clearly expresses an astonishing feat of effort and mobilisation of labour, of a presumably powerful builder.

The purpose of the Caterthuns can only be understood in relation to what else was going on at this time and in this place. Research and excavation has shown that they were unlikely to have been the foci of settlement, but probably had their origins as the sites of communal places for economic and ceremonial activities, e.g. markets, festivals and meeting places. The villages and farms where the people who built and used the forts lived, are detected in the archaeological record on the fertile lowland plains that surround the Caterthuns, usually as cropmarks. On higher marginal ground, where different historic land use has resulted in the survival of upstanding archaeological remains, the houses and fields of contemporary settlements survive as low earthworks, e.g. the houses cairns and fields recorded on the lower slopes of the White Caterthun, Hill of Menmuir and Tullo Hill.

Today, the Caterthuns are well-visited monuments, appreciated for the spectacular views from their summits. Now, as in the past, access for most visitors is controlled, although not by ramparts and palisades, but by clear paths though otherwise difficult terrain. This constrains views for most, from the paths. For both monuments, the views of the turbines are confined to their north or north eastern quadrant. No views over Strathmore and to the coast eastwards and southwards are affected. No views towards the mountains of the Braes of Angus westwards are affected.

The turbines come clearly into view from the Brown Caterthun from a point just north of the summit. From here and the northern quadrant of the monument, they would appear as new elements within the geometric, cultivated lower ground back dropped by the Highland landscape of the Braes of Angus. There is no visibility of the turbines from other parts of the Brown Caterthun. When looking south and eastwards over Strathmore and to the coast, the turbines would not be visible.

From the White Caterthun, the turbines would be clearly seen as new elements in the landscape when making the descent along the path from the summit to the car park and picnic area, and from the top of the summit rampart at the north eastern end. When looking over to the summit of the Brown Caterthun from these areas, the turbines would be peripheral to this view and positioned lower than the natural line of sight. There are no views out from the enclosed summit of the White Caterthun.

As shown above, the setting of the Caterthuns cannot be defined singly. At the regional level, their setting is about their relationship with the landscape and with other contemporary prominent sites with similar hilltop locations, e.g. Green Cairn, Finavon Fort and Turin Hill forts. This landscape setting context is perhaps of greatest importance to the modern setting of the Caterthuns. Most visitors who scale their summits do so for the view. At this scale, the two turbines would be new but small scale elements in the landscape. In most of these panoramic landscape views the turbines would not be visible. In views north and north eastwards towards the mountains, the turbines would be associated with the modern agricultural landscape and be below a natural line of sight.

The magnitude of impact to the setting of the monument at a landscape scale is therefore assessed to be slight. It is not considered that the regional setting of the monument will be harmed by the presence of the turbines and that the significance of the impact is predicted to be **moderate/minor**.

At a local scale, the setting of the Caterthuns may be defined as their relationship with the contemporary settlement and other sites on the lower land where the people who built and used the Caterthuns lived and worked. In a modern intensively farmed landscape, the evidence for these is gone or survives as below ground deposits, the agricultural erosion of which creates cropmarks. On marginal land, these sometimes survive as slight earthworks, and in most cases are protected by scheduling. Despite these rare survivals, the contemporary local context of the Caterthuns is long gone. It would not be possible to see and comprehend the physical remains of the relationship between settlement and hillfort from anywhere on the Caterthuns.

The magnitude of impact to the setting of the monument at a local scale is therefore assessed to be slight. It is not considered that the local setting of the monument will be harmed by the presence of the turbines and that the significance of the impact is predicted to be **moderate/minor**.

Finally, there is consideration of setting within and between the monuments themselves. During their use, high earthen and stone ramparts, topped with palisades and possibly hedges or fences would have controlled access and restricted views within and between the forts – although views of them from elsewhere in the landscape would have been much more dramatic. The massive stone ramparts enclosing the summit of the White Caterthun still effectively close off all views out of the monument by creating a stadium-like space. The turbines appear as peripheral lower level features in the modern view from the path to the White Caterthun across to the Brown Caterthun.

It is not considered that the interior setting of the monuments will be affected at all by the presence of the turbines and so the significance of the impact is predicted to be **minor**.

Ballownie mound (6376)

The monument is described as a 4m high, 25m diameter turf covered stony mound within woodland which forms a burial mound of prehistoric date. The mound is now covered with mature trees. It is sited on the northern river cliff of Cruick Water. The setting of the monument is defined by its relationship with the adjacent river and woodland. The 1st Edition OS shows a second tumulus, no destroyed, in the ploughed field on the other side of the road just to the north of Ballownie mound.

From the edge of the monument on the side of the road, there are relatively clear views across flat open arable land interspersed with clumps of trees and blocks of plantations towards the development site with the hills behind. It is possible, but not certain that the turbine tips would be visible from here. There would be no views of the turbines from the main part of the monument itself because it is located in woodland.

The magnitude of impact to the setting of the monument is assessed to be negligible due to the partial distant views of the turbines from the edge of the scheduled area and the fact that the principal setting of the monument is defined by its relation to the river. The significance of the impact is predicted to be **minor**.

Bridgend Cairn (4416)

The monument is described as a cairn standing to 1m high, with a kerb of large boulders. It is a rare example of its type and dates to the Bronze Age. The cairn is located on grazed grassland on a high ridge of glacial sand and gravel deposits above a bend in the West Water. The principal views from the cairn summit are over the river valley and it is the siting upon the ridge above the river that is important in defining its setting.

It is possible to see the upper western part of the development site from the summit of Bridgend Cairn, and possible, but not certain that a turbine tip would be visible. This would not affect the setting of the cairn in relation to the river and its immediate surroundings.

The magnitude of impact to the setting of the monument is assessed to be negligible due to the partial views of the turbines and its closely defined setting with the river below, which will be unaffected by the presence of the turbines. The significance of the impact is predicted to be **minor**.

7.16 Summary and Conclusions

Table 7.5 below provides a summary of the predicted significance of impacts upon cultural heritage receptors within the development site and wider study areas prior to, and following the implementation of suggested mitigation actions, and an assessment of the predicted residual impacts, for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the wind farm development.

Table 7.5: Summary of assessment of residual impact of development upon cultural heritage features

Impact	Impact significance (worst case)	Mitigation measure	Impact significance after mitigation (worst case)	Residual impact
Construction				
Loss or partial loss of known cultural heritage features.	NONE	None proposed.	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE
Loss or partial loss of unknown buried archaeological deposits.	MODERATE	None proposed. The small scale and low impact of groundworks effectively mitigate the potential impact of construction.	MINOR/ NEGLIGIBLE	MINOR/ NEGLIGIBLE
Operation				
Indirect effects upon key cultural heritage receptors in the wider historic landscape.	MODERATE/ MINOR	Mitigation of indirect impacts embedded in wind farm design.	MODERATE/ MINOR Turbines will either be barely visible or will not impact upon the relevant setting of the 6 affected designated heritage assets within 10km of the wind farm.	MODERATE/ MINOR
Decommissioning				
Possible unintentional damage to upstanding cultural heritage features.	NONE	None proposed.	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE

The study has shown that there will be indirect impacts to only six designated cultural heritage receptors within a 10km radius of the site. In four of these the predicted impact is assessed to be minor at most, and in two the predicted impact is assessed to be moderate at most.

The potential impact to each cultural heritage site has been individually considered. It is concluded that in no case during the operational period of the wind farm will the turbines be experienced as a detracting or detrimental element in the landscape in relation to the setting of any of the monuments.

The overall predicted significance of impact arising from the Lower Cairny wind cluster, either to the survival or setting of the cultural heritage resource is assessed to be overwhelmingly neutral and acceptable in terms of the EIA regulations.

References

Written sources (*not including legislation, planning and policy guidance which is referenced in the text*)

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Cartographic sources

1794	Ainslie, J. Map of the County of Forfar or Shire of Angus NE section
1865	Ordnance Survey Forfarshire Sheet XIX, 1 st Edition, 6-inch
1892-1905	Ordnance Survey Forfarshire Sheet XIX 1 st Edition 6 inch (1 st revision)

Table 8.1: Noise Sensitive Receptors			
Receptor	Name	Easting	Northing
A	Tillydovie Cottage	355747	769564
B	Witton	356324	770117
C	Oldtown	354732	770086
D	Larkhall	355001	769464
E	Larkhall 2	355007	769339
F	Margie	356601	770433
G	Newbigging	354385	768949
Table 8.2: WTG Locations			
ID	Easting	Northing	
T1	355356	769976	
T2	355594	770017	

8.3 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

8.3.1 Legislation, policy and guidance

An overview of key guidance with respect to operational noise is outlined below, and further details of legislation, policy and guidance specifically for operational noise (ETSU-R-97¹⁶) are set out in Section 8.4.

Noise propagation has been modelled in accordance with International Standard ISO 9613-2: 1996 Acoustics – Attenuation of Sound Propagation Outdoors – Part 2: General Method of Calculation¹⁹.

PAN 1/2011: Planning and Noise²⁰ provides advice on how the planning system can be used to reduce the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business.

The Scottish Government's online planning policy²¹ and in particular, the page on onshore WTGs, recommends the framework set out in the report *The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms*

¹⁹ International Standard ISO 9613-2: 1996, *Acoustics – Attenuation of Sound during Propagation Outdoors*

²⁰ Planning Advice Note 1/2011, *Planning and Noise*,

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/343210/0114180.pdf>, (Scottish Government, last viewed 15 March 2012)

(ETSU-R-97) for the measurement of WTG noise. It gives indicative noise levels calculated to offer a reasonable degree of protection to those living near to WTGs, without placing unreasonable restrictions on wind farm development. It also states that well-specified and well-designed wind farms should be located so that increases in ambient noise levels around noise sensitive receptors are kept to acceptable levels in relation to existing background noise. This will normally be achieved through good design of the WTGs and through allowing sufficient distance between the WTGs and any existing noise-sensitive development so that noise from the wind farm will not normally be significant. Noise levels from WTGs are generally low, and under most operating conditions it is likely that WTG noise would be completely masked by wind-generated background noise.

The impact of operational noise has been assessed in accordance with ETSU-R-97, taking cognisance of the most recent best-practice guidelines of Bowdler et al (2009)²². In October 2009, The Rt Hon Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE (Minister of State, DECC) wrote to Environmental Protection UK in response to their claim that a review of ETSU was due. He states²³:

'You're quite right that modern turbines are generally larger than those on which the ETSU-R-97 guidance was based. Noise outputs from these larger turbines have also, however, reduced in that time. Since the ETSU-R-97 derived noise limits are a function of background noise, there is currently no evidence to suggest that the larger turbines are any more likely to cause a noise impact than earlier and smaller designs. Similarly, there is currently no evidence to suggest that the small incidence of Amplitude Modulation (AM) that is reported to occur at a few sites is as a result of turbine size.'

In essence, therefore, we continue to support the approach set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22 - Renewable Energy, including the use of ETSU-R-97 to "ensure that renewable energy developments have been located and designed in such a way to minimise increases in ambient noise levels".

8.3.2 Consultation

Consultations were carried out as outlined in Table 8.3.

8.3.3 Property Ownership

The Applicant owns the properties at Tillydovie Cottage, Witton, Larkhall, Larkhall 2, the new farmhouse at Tillydovie and also the abandoned property at Bogton. The property at Bogton is owned by the applicant. It is abandoned and derelict as confirmed by the Bell Ingram survey report at Appendix 8. The Applicant has no intention of developing the property as it is too derelict and without services.

²¹ *Renewable Energy*, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/themes/renewables> (Scottish Government, last viewed 15 March 2012)

²² *Prediction and assessment of wind turbine noise - agreement about relevant factors for noise assessment from wind energy projects*. D Bowdler, AJ Bullmore, RA Davis, MD Hayes, M Jiggins, G Leventhall, AR McKenzie. Institute of Acoustics, Acoustics Bulletin, Vol 34, No 2 March/April 2009

²³ <http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/news/detail/?id=2300>

Table 8.3: Summary of Consultations
Consultee: Louise Ackroyd; Angus Council Environmental Health Officer
<p>Response: Email on 31 August 2012 confirming that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lidar would appear to be an acceptable method for gathering wind speed data and would therefore be accepted by this department for the site at Lower Cairny. <p>Response: Email on 12 September 2012 confirming that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the methodology suggested for the noise and wind monitoring I am happy with what is being proposed... <p>Response: Meeting on the proposed wind cluster site confirming that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The noise measurement locations are suitable and representative of the surrounding area. <p>Discussions Post-Withdrawal of Application 13/00257/FULL - WITTON FARM, August 2013.</p> <p>The Environmental Health Officer noted that several of the nearby properties within the ownership of the Applicant would not meet the Council's noise criteria, in particular at Tillydovie Cottage which lies on the edge of the acceptable noise limit contour. As a result, the application was withdrawn in August 2013 in order to enable the Applicant to resolve these noise related issues. The Applicant has now developed mitigation measures that respond to the Council's concerns. It is possible to reduce the noise levels of the candidate Enercon E48 turbine by reducing the rotational speed of the blades, with a resultant reduction in the amount of electrical energy produced. This will be done for wind direction when the property is downwind of the wind turbine, and for the wind speed range over which there is a predicted exceedance of the noise limit. Further details of this mitigation package are contained within Section 8.9 and Appendix 8 within the Hayes McKenzie Report.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that the residents at Tillydovie Cottage have a financial 'share' in the proposed development.</p>

8.4 Operational noise

The assessment of operational noise effects was undertaken following the guidance of ETSU-R-97. Details of the ETSU guidance are set out below.

The current practice on controlling WTG noise imposes noise limits at the nearest noise sensitive properties. Noise limits should be applied to external locations and should apply only to those areas frequently used for relaxation or activities for which a quiet environment is highly desirable.

Noise limits set relative to the background noise are more appropriate than fixed limits in the majority of cases. Generally, the noise limits should be set relative to the existing background noise at the nearest noise-sensitive properties and the limits should reflect the variation in both WTG source noise and background noise with wind speed.

Separate noise limits should apply for day-time and for night-time as during the night the protection of external amenity becomes less important and the emphasis should be on preventing sleep disturbance. Absolute noise limits and margins above background should relate to the cumulative impact of all WTGs in the area contributing to the noise received at the properties in question. Any existing WTGs should not be considered as part of the prevailing background noise.

The $L_{A90,10min}$ descriptor should be used for both the background noise and the wind cluster noise, and when setting limits it should be borne in mind that the $L_{A90,10min}$ of the wind cluster is likely to be about 1.5-2.5 dB(A) less than the L_{Aeq} measured over the same period. The use of the $L_{A90,10min}$ descriptor for wind cluster noise allows reliable measurements to be made without corruption from relatively loud, transitory noise events from other sources.

For single WTGs or wind farms with very large separation distances between the WTGs and the nearest properties, a simplified noise condition may be suitable. If the noise is limited to a $L_{A90,10min}$ of 35 dB(A) up to wind speeds of 10 m/s at 10 m height, then this condition alone would offer sufficient protection of amenity, and background noise surveys would be unnecessary.

8.4.1 Operational noise assessment criteria

The operational noise criteria, above which noise levels would be considered a significant impact, are derived as set out in ETSU-R-97. They have been consistently applied by planning authorities to wind energy developments since 1997 and have a high level of general acceptance²⁴. In assessing impact, the day is divided into quiet day-time hours and night-time hours.

- Night-time: (2300-0700) limit 43 dB(A) L_{90} (10 minutes) when measured in free field conditions outside dwellings or up to 5 dB above background, whichever is the greater.
- Quiet day-time: (All evenings 1800-2300, Saturdays 1300-1800, Sundays 0700-1800) but in rating terms covering all daytime. When background levels do not exceed 30 dB(A), L_{90} (10 minutes) absolute level limit of between 35 dB(A) and 40 dB(A) L_{90} (10 minutes) the precise level depending on location factors or up to 5 dB above background level, whichever is the greater.

Both day- and night-time lower fixed limits can be increased to 45 dB(A) if the occupier has some financial involvement in the wind.

These criteria include an allowance for that character of WTG noise generally described as 'blade swish'.

²⁴ HM: 2293/R1 Analysis of How Noise Impacts are Considered in the Determination of Wind Farm Planning Applications Hayes McKenzie Partnership, 6 April 2011

The actual absolute level selected for low background noise conditions depends on a number of factors. These factors include the number of dwellings in the neighbourhood, the impact of noise limits on the energy yield of the wind and the duration and level of exposure.

8.4.2 WTG Emission Data

A-weighted octave band noise levels for a candidate WTG have been used to predict the noise levels at sensitive receptors. The sound power level of the candidate machine, the Enercon E-48, is representative for an 800 kW machine²⁵. The noise emission curve of the WTG is understood to be based on theoretical modelling, rather than a warranted level that the manufacturer is prepared to contract not to exceed. This has been accounted for in the model by the use of a ground absorption factor of 0.0, as recommended by Bowdler et al (2009)²².

Wind cluster operational noise propagation model

The sound propagation over distance, including the effect of atmospheric absorption, was calculated using the WindPRO model based on ISO 9613-2.

8.4.3 Cumulative effects

ETSU-R-97 states that noise limits should be set relative to the pre-development background noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive receptor and that other existing wind farms should be taken into consideration. It is understood that there are no operational or consented nearby wind farms at this stage.

8.5 Baseline conditions

8.5.1 Background noise survey

The operational noise of wind farms is assessed by comparison with existing background noise. Background noise is usually measured in the external amenity of nearby noise sensitive receptors. Measurements are made in ten-minute intervals over an extended period. For this impact assessment, background noise measurements were obtained between 24 September and 9 October 2012.

Background noise monitoring was undertaken at two locations. The monitoring locations were discussed with the Angus Council Environmental Health Officer (Table 8.3 above). During a site visit on the 24 September SgurrEnergy personnel installed the noise monitoring equipment in the presence of the Environmental Health Officer.

Measurements were made in accordance with best practice set out in ETSU-R-97, (i.e. at a height of 1.2 m to 1.5 m above ground level and not less than 3.5 m from any reflective façade). Care was also taken to position the microphones as far as reasonably practicable from potentially noisy trees and bushes. Periods of heavy rainfall were excluded from the analysis.

²⁵ SIAS-04-SPL E48 OM I Rev3_0eng-eng.doc Sound Power level of the Enercon E-48 Operational Mode 1, 04/02/2011

Ten minute consecutive noise measurements of L_{A90} were undertaken throughout the measurement period. Noise levels were measured in conjunction with wind speed data in order to correlate background noise levels with changes in wind speed.

Figure 8.2 and Figure 8.3 show the microphone positions in the environment of the background noise monitoring receptors.



Figure 8.2: Measurement Location at Tillydovie Cottage (A)



Figure 8.3: Measurement Location at Oldtown (C)

8.5.2 Wind speed data

Wind speed measurements were also carried out over the duration of the noise measurements, using a Zephir lidar remote sensing device. The measurement location was agreed with the Angus Council Environmental Health Officer and is shown in Table 8.4 and Appendix 8. The measured height, amongst

others, was 50 m which matches the proposed hub height of the two Lower Cairny WTGs. The wind speed was then referenced back to 10 m using a hypothetical surface roughness length of 0.05 m, as recommended by Bowdler *et al*²². As sound power levels of WTGs are always referenced to 10 m with a 0.05 m surface roughness, this ensures a consistent treatment of wind speeds and noise levels.

Table 8.4: Lidar Measurement Location	
Easting (m)	Northing (m)
355200	769956

8.5.3 Current conditions

The survey results have been analysed in accordance with the procedures outlined in ETSU-R-97.

The measured L_{A90} noise levels at 10-minute intervals have been correlated with the wind speed measurements at 10 minute intervals (standardised to a height of 10 m) for the period of the noise measurement survey.

Any 10-minute interval in which rainfall was logged has then been discarded, as have any periods of unusually high noise levels for a given wind speed.

The measurement results have then been separated into the different time periods for day and night-time limits.

A two-hour period around dawn was removed each day to eliminate the effect of the dawn chorus.

The L_{A90} ,10-minute noise levels have been plotted against the corresponding wind speeds at the reference height of 10 m. For each period a second order polynomial “best-fit” regression curve is fitted to the data. The resultant background noise levels against wind speed at the two measurement locations are shown in Figures 8.4 to 8.7 and in Table 8.5.

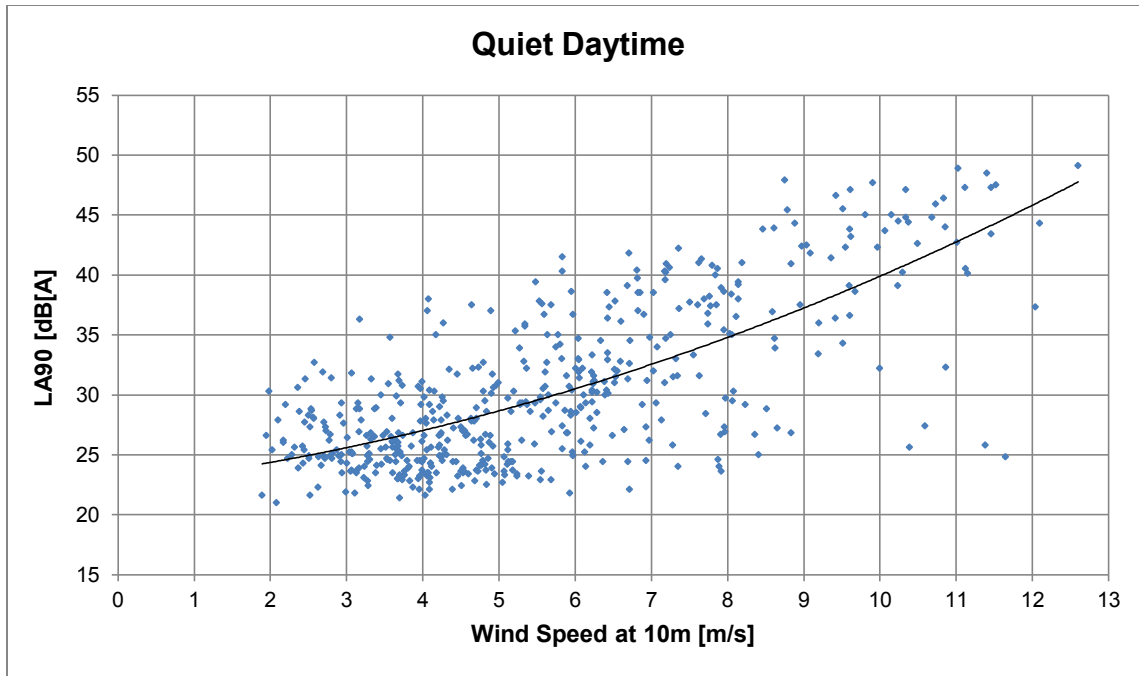


Figure 8.4: Polynomial fit to the background noise at Tillydovie Cottage (A) - Quiet daytime

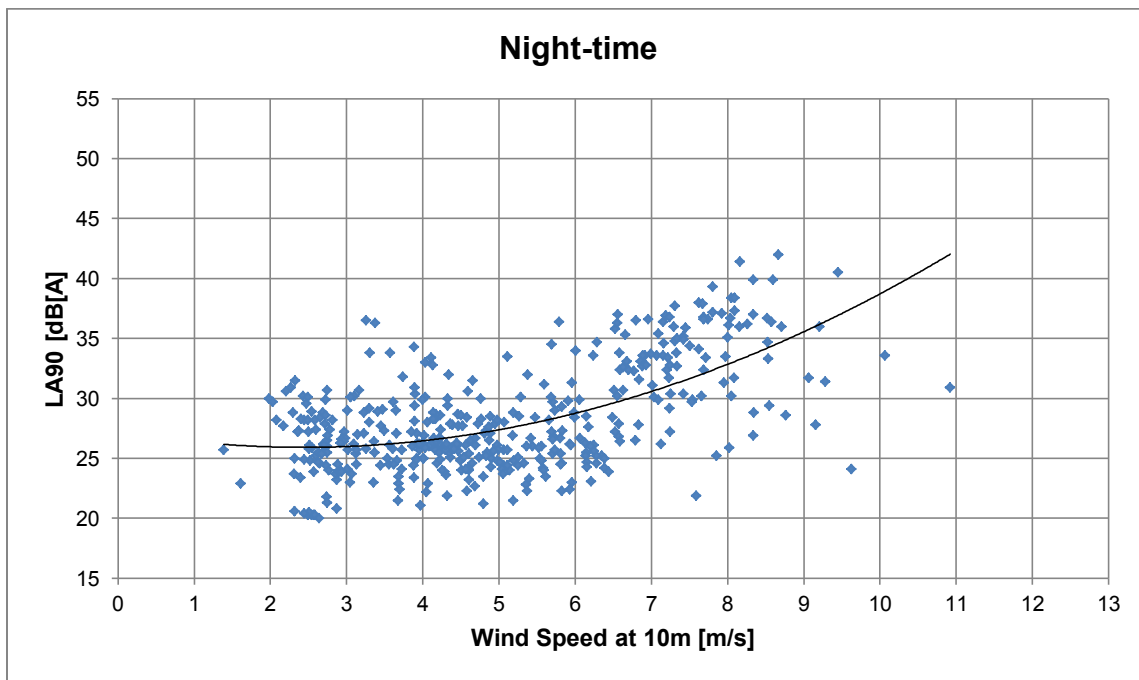


Figure 8.5: Polynomial fit to the background noise at Tillydovie Cottage (A) – Night-time

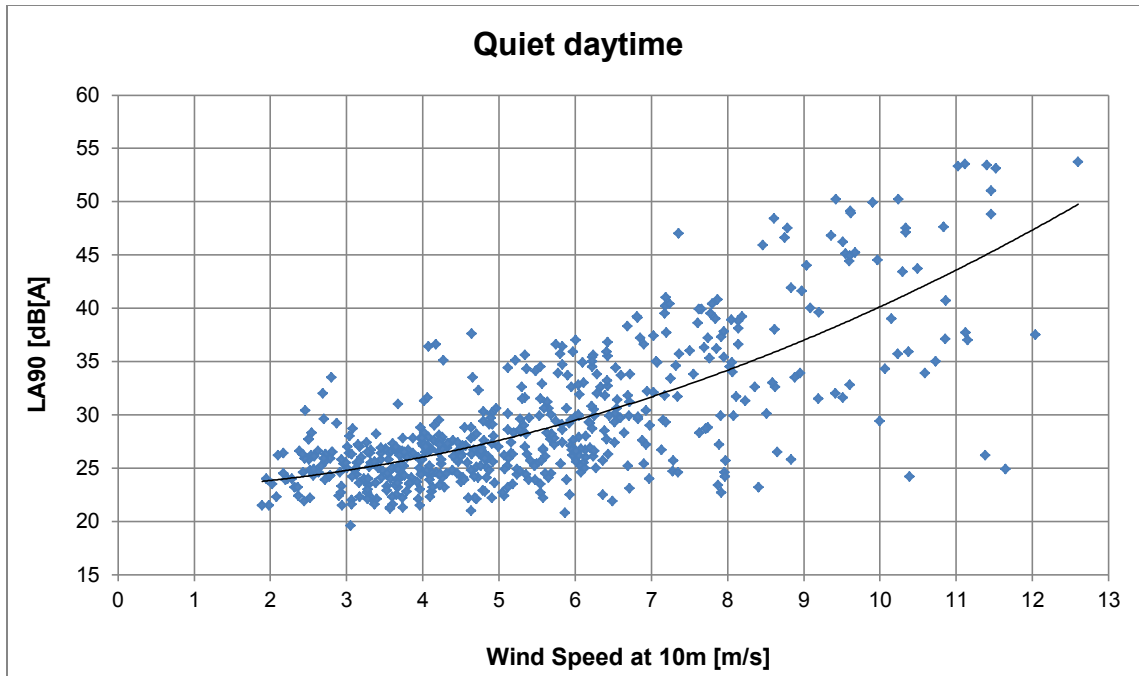


Figure 8.6: Polynomial fit to the background noise at Oldtown (C) – Quiet daytime

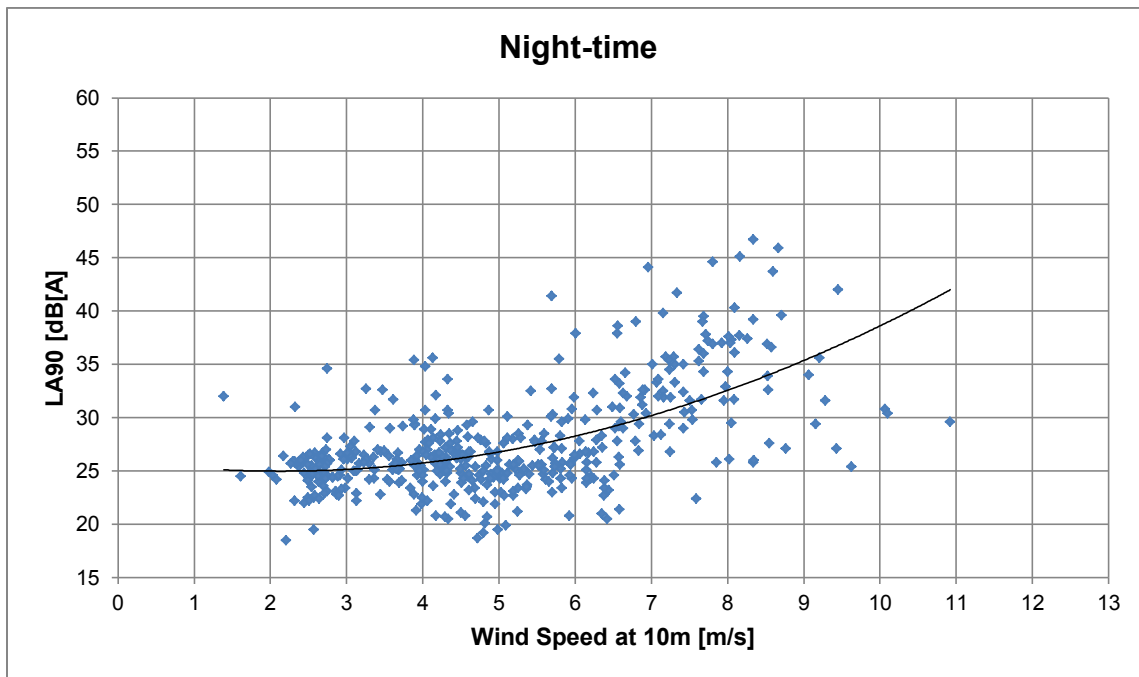


Figure 8.7: Polynomial fit to the background noise at Oldtown (C) – Night-time

Table 8.5: Ambient Background Noise Levels, L_{90} , dB(A)				
Wind speed (m/s)	Tillydovie Cottage		Oldtown	
	Quiet daytime	Night-time	Quiet daytime	Night-time
4	27.0	26.6	26.0	25.7
5	28.7	27.6	27.6	26.8
6	30.5	28.9	29.5	28.3
7	32.5	30.5	31.7	30.2
8	34.8	32.5	34.2	32.5
9	37.2	34.7	37.0	35.4
10	39.9		40.1	
11	42.8	-	43.6	-
12	-	-	-	-

8.6 Assessment of Potential Effects

8.6.1 Derivation of noise limits for wtg noise

The criteria for operational noise are based on existing background noise, subject to fixed lower limits. The results of the background noise survey are presented in Table 8.5.

The measurements at Tillydovie Cottage (Receptor A) are taken to represent itself as well as Receptors B and F. Those at Oldtown (C) are taken to represent itself and Receptors D, E and G.

Based on the ETSU guidance, criteria are 5 dB above local background noise, subject to various lower limits. Where background noise levels are not available at high wind speeds, a constant background noise level is assumed; this assumption is very conservative. At levels above criteria the noise emissions from the development would be considered a significant impact.

The choice of 35 dB or 40 dB as the noise criterion in the limit of low wind speeds depends on the number of sensitive receptors and the power output of the development. A worst-case value of 35 dB has been assumed. At Tillydovie Cottage (A) the low wind-speed limit is taken to be 45 dB because the owners have a financial interest in the wind turbine cluster. The resulting criteria are shown in Table 8.6.

8.6.2 Operational effects

The noise impact assessment assumes that the sound energy propagates in all directions from the WTG. Some energy will be absorbed in the air and some by the ground. On that basis, the predicted levels received at the sensitive receptors, as a function of wind speed, referenced to 10 m above ground level, are as shown in Table 8.6.

Table 8.6: Noise Immission and Criteria, L_{90} , dB(A)

Receptor		Wind Speed									
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
A Tillydovie Cottage	Daytime criteria	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	47.8	47.8
	Night-time criteria	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
	WTG Noise	26.2	30.5	34.7	37.7	38.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7
B Witton	Daytime criteria	35.0	35.0	35.5	37.5	39.8	42.2	44.9	47.8	47.8	
	Night-time criteria	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	
	WTG Noise	21.5	25.8	30.0	33.0	34.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	
C Oldtown	Daytime criteria	35.0	35.0	35.0	36.7	39.2	42.0	45.1	48.6	48.6	
	Night-time criteria	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	
	WTG Noise	23.0	27.3	31.5	34.5	35.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	
D Larkhall	Daytime criteria	35.0	35.0	35.0	36.7	39.2	42.0	45.1	48.6	48.6	
	Night-time criteria	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	
	WTG Noise	23.3	27.6	31.8	34.8	35.8	36.8	36.8	36.8	36.8	
E Larkhall 2	Daytime criteria	35.0	35.0	35.0	36.7	39.2	42.0	45.1	48.6	48.6	
	Night-time criteria	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	
	WTG Noise	21.9	26.2	30.4	33.4	34.4	35.4	35.4	35.4	35.4	
F Margie	Daytime criteria	35.0	35.0	35.5	37.5	39.8	42.2	44.9	47.8	47.8	
	Night-time criteria	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	
	WTG Noise	17.7	22.0	26.2	29.2	30.2	31.2	31.2	31.2	31.2	
G Newbigging	Daytime criteria	35.0	35.0	35.0	36.7	39.2	42.0	45.1	48.6	48.6	
	Night-time criteria	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	
	WTG Noise	15.1	19.4	23.6	26.6	27.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	

From the results in Table 8.6 it is clear that the criteria are met at all sensitive receptors at all wind speeds. The levels shown in Table 8.6 are also presented graphically compared with the daytime and night-time criteria in Appendix 8.

8.7 Infra-sound

Infra-sound is defined as noise occurring at frequencies below that at which sound is normally audible, i.e. at less than 20 Hz, due to the significantly reduced sensitivity of the ear at such frequencies. In this frequency range, for sound to be perceptible, it has to be at very high amplitude and it is generally considered that when such sounds are perceptible then they can cause considerable annoyance.

WTGs have been cited as significant producers of infra-sound. This has, however, been due to the high levels of such noise, as well as an audible, low frequency, thumping noise, occurring on older 'downwind' WTGs of which many were installed in the USA prior to the large-scale take up of wind power production in the UK. Downwind WTGs are configured with the blades downwind of the tower such that the blades pass through the wake left in the wind stream by the tower resulting in a regular audible thump, with infra-sonic components, each time a blade passes the tower. All modern WTGs are of the upwind design, with the blades upwind of the tower, such that this effect is eliminated.

The DTI Low Frequency Noise Study concluded that 'Infrasound noise emissions from WTGs are significantly below the recognised threshold of perception for acoustic energy within this frequency range. Even assuming that the most sensitive members of the population have a hearing threshold which is 12 dB lower than the median hearing threshold, measured infrasound levels are well below this criterion'. It goes on to state that, based on information from the World Health Organisation, that 'there is no reliable evidence that infrasound below the hearing threshold produce physiological or psychological effects' it may be concluded that 'infrasound associated with modern wind WTGs is not a source which may be injurious to the health of a wind farm neighbour'.

8.8 Low frequency noise

Noise from modern WTGs is essentially broad band in nature in that it contains similar amounts of noise energy in all frequency bands from low to high frequency. With increasing distance from a wind farm site, the noise level decreases as a result of the spreading out of the sound energy, but also due to air absorption which increases with increasing frequency. This means that although the energy across the whole frequency range is reduced, higher frequencies are reduced more than lower frequencies with the effect that as distance from the site increases, the ratio of low to high frequencies also increases. This effect may be observed with road traffic noise or natural sources such as the sea where higher frequency components are diminished relative to lower frequency components at long distances. At such distances, however, overall noise levels from WTGs are so low that this effect is not significant.

8.9 Mitigation Measures

The Enercon E-48 turbine can be programmed to run at noise reduced modes, whereby the rotational speed of the wind turbine is restricted with a resultant reduction in noise level and energy production. The declared apparent sound power levels for the reduced noise modes are detailed in Table 8.7 below, and the datasheet they are based on is included in Appendix 8.

Table 8.7 - Reduced Noise Mode Turbine Source Sound Power Level (dB L_{WA})

Reduced Noise Mode	Standardised 10 m Height Wind Speed (m/s)								
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
800 kW (standard mode of operation)	91.0	95.3	99.5	102.5	103.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5
700 kW	91.0	95.3	99.5	102.5	103.5	103.5	103.5	103.5	103.5
600 kW	91.0	95.3	99.5	102.5	102.6	102.6	102.6	102.6	102.6
500 kW	91.0	95.3	99.5	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0	102.0
400 kW	91.0	95.3	99.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5
300 kW	91.0	95.3	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5

In this case there is an exceedance of the lower daytime noise limit at 7 m/s standardised 10 m height wind speed, and so a mitigation strategy has been developed to enable this limit to be met. The lower daytime limit can be met by running turbine T2 in the 400 kW mode during the daytime hours of 0700-2300 for standardised 10 m height wind speeds of 6 – 8 m/s. The 400 kW mode has a source sound power level 2 dB lower than the normal 800 kW operating mode at that wind speed. The turbine source sound power level for T2 including this mitigation can be seen in Table 8.8 below.

Table 8.8 - Mitigated T2 Source Sound Power Levels

Turbine Model	Standardised 10 m Height Wind Speed (m/s)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Warranted Sound Power Level (dB L _{WA})	89.0	93.3	97.5	98.5*	101.5	102.5
Enercon E-48 800 kW (OM I) 50 m hub-height	K (95%)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Declared Sound Power Level (dB L _{WA})	91.0	95.3	99.5	100.5	103.5	104.5	104.5

****mitigated to 400 kW noise reduced mode.***

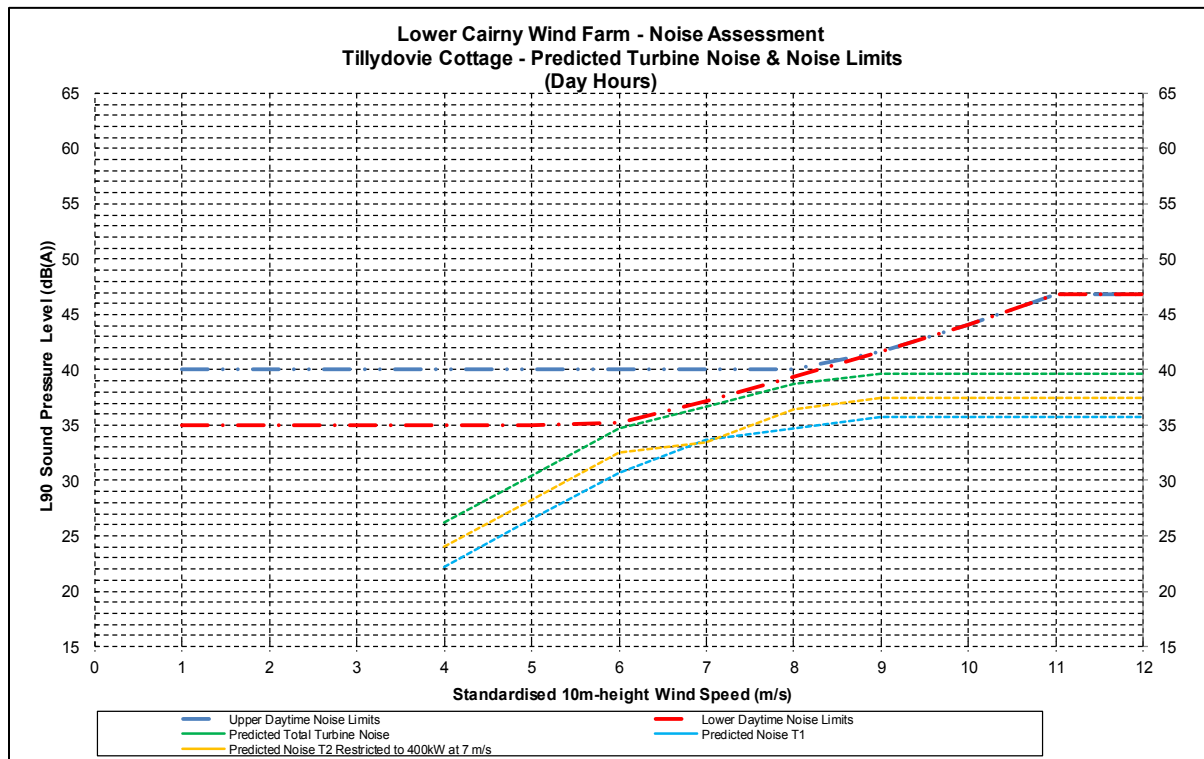
A revised assessment has been carried out based on this mitigation strategy, the results of which can be seen in 8.9 below. The predicted noise levels at Tillydovie Cottage with the mitigation implemented and the noise limits can be seen plotted against wind speed in Figure 8.8 (see also Appendix E of the Hayes McKenzie Report in Appendix 8).

Table 8.9 - Mitigated T2 Assessment Results (dB L_{A90})

Dwelling	Data	Standardised 10 m Height Wind Speed (m/s)									
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Tillydovie Cottage	Predicted Noise Level	26.2	30.5	34.7	36.6	38.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	39.7	
	Lower Daytime Margin	8.8	4.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.9	4.4	7.1	7.1	

It can be seen in Table 8.9 and in Figure 8.8, that with the mitigation strategy implemented, the predicted noise levels are below the lower daytime noise limit at Tillydovie Cottage by a minimum margin of 0.6 dB. It should be noted that in practice T2 would only need to be operated in the 400 kW mode for wind speeds of 6 – 8 m/s and wind directions of 255 – 45 degrees when the property would be downwind of the wind turbines. It should be noted that when T2 is operating with mitigation, operational noise levels would also be reduced at other properties. The detailed information regarding the other properties is contained within the Hayes McKenzie Report in Appendix 8.

Figure 8.8 Tillydovie Cottage Day Hours Mitigated Noise Assessment Chart



8.10 Conclusions

The noise impact of the proposed wind turbine cluster on nearby noise sensitive receptors has been modelled in accordance with ETSU-R-97, ISO 9613-2 and the guidance in the Institute of Acoustics' Acoustics Bulletin, assuming a candidate WTG, the Enercon E-48.

The noise assessment showed an exceedance of the lower daytime noise limit at Tillydovie cottage under certain wind conditions, and the mitigation required to enable the limit to be met has been calculated.

In terms of impact at Tillydovie Cottage, it is possible to reduce the noise levels of the candidate Enercon E48 turbine by reducing the rotational speed of the blades. This will be done for wind direction when the property is downwind of the wind turbine, and for the wind speed range over which there is a predicted exceedance of the noise limit.

The assessment of the proposed development with the mitigation strategy implemented shows that the predicted noise levels at all of the assessment locations meet the derived night and lower daytime noise limits by a minimum margin of 0.6 dB.

The proposed wind turbine cluster is predicted to meet the relevant criteria at all wind speeds at all noise sensitive receptors.

9 SHADOW FLICKER AND RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

9.1 Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker occurs when the sunlight and the rotating wind turbine blades interact in such a way that a moving shadow is cast onto the ground or stationary objects. Within the range of the shadow at any specified location, a flickering effect is evident when the shadow passes.

There is no generally accepted rule with regard to shadow flicker impact. However, based on Scottish planning guidance (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/themes/renewables/Onshore>) shadow flicker only occurs within 10 rotor diameters of WTGs.

Impact on properties within this area will depend on location of the property with respect to the wind turbines and the relative position of the sun. The area surrounding the site is rural in nature, and has only a limited number of dwellings nearby. The nearest property is Bogton and this is owned by the applicant. The property is currently abandoned and will remain so with the outhouses used for storage as part of the farm operation. Other properties are at least 600 m from the nearest properties. As the proposed WTGs have a rotor diameter of 48 m, only properties within 480 m are potentially at risk of shadow flicker impacts. As a result there is no risk of shadow flicker causing an impact on any residential properties around the site boundary. The Residential Amenity Assessment presented below expands on the situation of these properties with respect to the proposed turbines.

9.2 Lower Cairny 2km Residential Amenity Assessment

The site for installation of 2 x 74m high wind turbines is located to the east south east of the abandoned property at Bogton. There are 11 properties located within a 2km radius of the site. These properties and their situation with respect to the proposed turbine site are summarised in Table 9.1 below. Figure 9.1 shows the location of each property with respect to the 'with trees' ZTV for the turbines.

	Location	Distance from Site	Grid Reference	Description of Accommodation and Views	Comments
1	Bogton	200m west north west of the nearest turbine.	35515, 77010	Property owned by applicant. Property uninhabited and abandoned . No plans to develop property.	No impact
2	Oldtown	700m west of the site and at a higher elevation than the nearest turbine (230m AOD).	35470, 77050	Living area faces due south with no window views towards the site. Walled garden around property limits views from curtilage.	Direct views onto the 232kVA pylon network. Minor to moderate impact.

	Location	Distance from Site	Grid Reference	Description of Accommodation and Views	Comments
3	Tillydovie	600m due south of the nearest turbine.	35571, 76950	2 x properties owned by applicant. Views to south from main living areas. Small woodland copses partially screen site.	Minor impact
4	Witton	600m east of the nearest turbine.	35628, 77010	Property owned by applicant. Views east and to the south from main living areas.	Minor impact
5	Larkhall	600m south west of nearest turbine.	35513, 76950	Property owned by applicant. Views from living areas are to the south away from the site. Some limited view from utility rooms to rear of property. Property screened from site by trees/hedging at high level.	Negligible impact
6	Margie	1km east of the property.	35667, 77042	Main views are away from the site. Some limited views of site from gable upstairs windows. Local woodland screening at Margie will provide local screening of the turbine structures.	A separate wireline looking to Lower Cairny from this location has been produced at Figure 9.2, Appendix 8.
7	Blacks Pot (Margie Burn)	1km east south east of the nearest turbine.	35670, 77010	Property is located near the bottom of a steep sided valley. It is unlikely that there will be any views of the turbines.	Negligible impact

	Location	Distance from Site	Grid Reference	Description of Accommodation and Views	Comments
8	Newbigging Farm	1.5km west south west from nearest turbine.	35434, 76890	Main views from living area are to the south east away from the site. Some rooms at the rear of the property look east. Partial screening by intervening woodland.	A separate wireline looking to Lower Cairny from this location has been produced at Figure 9.2, Appendix 8.
9	Mill of Lethnot	1.75km west south west of nearest turbine.	35403, 76875	Property located within steep-sided valley. No visibility towards the site. Property screened by intervening topography, buildings and trees at Newbigging Farm.	Negligible impact
10	Balfield	1.6km south west of nearest turbine.	35460, 76850	Properties here include detached house and small row of cottages. All properties face south east, south or east. The properties are all screened from the site by intervening trees.	Negligible impact
11	Clochie Farm	1.7km south west of nearest turbine.	35470, 76835	Properties here include detached house and small row of cottages. All properties face south east, south or east. The properties are all screened from the site by intervening trees.	Negligible impact

	Location	Distance from Site	Grid Reference	Description of Accommodation and Views	Comments
12	West Clochie	Located more than 2km from nearest turbine.	35423, 76824	Views from main living areas are to the south.	Minor impact
13	Drumcairn	Located more than 2km from nearest turbine.	35395, 76823	Property owned by applicant and unoccupied at present.	No impact
14	Caravan site	Located more than 2km from nearest turbine.	35411, 76825	No visibility of site due to intervening topography and trees.	No impact
15	Bridgend	Located more than 2km from nearest turbine.	35365, 76840	No visibility of site due to intervening topography and trees.	No impact

Table 9.1 Residential Amenity Assessment

9.3 Summary of Findings

Property 6 – Margie

The detail of the 'with trees' ZTV indicates that the property may see two turbines along its western edge, which quickly reduces to one turbine and then no visibility to the west. The wireline that was generated for the property shows the worst case visibility of the turbines, based on 'bare ground'. It is difficult to say how much of the turbines will be potentially screened by intervening trees as illustrated on the 'with trees' ZTV. The tree belts along the minor burn to the west of Margie as well as to the east of the turbines would provide some degree of screening. There may be visibility to some extent from the garden areas to the immediate west/north of the house but it is likely that the level of any potential intrusion is not such that it would comprise a 'noticeable intrusion' given the screening of the trees, the topography and the distance to the turbines.

Property 8 – Newbigging

The detail of the 'with trees' ZTV indicates that the property may see two turbines along its eastern edge. The wireline shows the worst case visibility of the turbines, based on 'bare ground'. It is difficult to say how much of the turbines will be potentially screened by intervening trees. There would be visibility from the garden areas and lane to the immediate east/south of the house but it is likely that the level of any potential intrusion is not such that it would comprise a 'noticeable intrusion' at 1km distance.

9.4 Conclusions

Many of the properties that are located close to the proposed turbine cluster are in the ownership of the Applicant. The property at Oldtown may receive a minor impact from views from the garden grounds to the east. Other properties at Margie and at Newbigging may also see the turbines to a limited degree from various parts of the garden grounds and laneways with intermediate tree screening providing some attenuation of views. The topography and distance from the site means that a number of properties in and around Bridgend will not have any visibility of the machines. It is acknowledged that those residing there will see the machines as they pass by on the road.

It is considered that the careful siting of the machines as described in the Landscape and Visual Impact chapter and the benefit of the topography and tree belts in the area means that there will be no significant impact on residential amenity.

10 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Wind turbines can cause interference on television, radio and microwave signals by blocking and / or causing part of the signal to be delayed. To identify the presence of any issues, relevant stakeholders have been consulted. Ofcom has identified no microwave links within 1.5km of the centre of the site.

JRC, who manage the scanning telemetry systems of the UK power industry, have indicated that they would have no objections to a wind cluster development in this area. Similarly, CSS, who manage the scanning telemetry links on behalf of the UK water industry, has indicated that they would have no objections to a wind development in this area.

Television Reception

In terms of terrestrial television reception reference has been made to the BBC Windfarm Assessment Tool which is designed to determine the likely impact of a proposed wind turbine(s) on the television reception of residents. The BBC tool is used as a standard reference tool for this sort of application. In this particular instance, according to the tool, two turbines would have no impact on any homes for whom there is no alternative off-air service and no homes would be affected for whom there may be an alternative off-air service. The transmitters likely to be affected are Durriss (Ch5) and Angus.

The television signal in Scotland is a digital signal that replaced the analogue signal in 2011. The digital signal is much more robust than the analogue one that it replaced. As a result, it is less susceptible to secondary interference caused by reflections from a turbine blade movement.

As a result, it is proposed that no mitigation measures are required.

11 AVIATION AND DEFENCE

Wind farm developments can affect the performance of primary and secondary radar systems. The performance of the system can be affected as follows:

- Clutter – increased number of unwanted returns due to the detection of wind turbines;
- Desensitisation – reduced detection performance against air targets in a region extending above and around the wind turbine development; and
- Tracking – increase in clutter may lead to an impact on tracking performance.

It is not anticipated that there would be any conflict with aviation and defence interests as a result of the proposed development. However consultation with Aberdeen Airport and Defence Estates has been carried out. ZTV assessment shows that there would be no potential line of sight to the airport at Dundee which is located some 34 miles from the site.

Aberdeen Airport – Aberdeen Airport is within approximately 54km south west of the proposed development area. The airport has confirmed that the site is outside of the NATS radar consultation zone which means that technically there is no need to consult with either the airport or NATS, as there would be no effect.

Defence Estates (Ministry of Defence) – the MOD was consulted in October 2010 and their response noted that they had no objections. The response is included at Appendix 11. A new consultation with MOD was issued in November 2011 but no response has been received.

12 ECONOMY AND TOURISM

12.1 Economic Benefit

The development will have a number of positive local economic benefits for the TAYplan area.

- The assessment work being carried out by professionals involved from the project is already bringing benefit to the Angus area.
- Diversification of the farm enterprise will ensure the long term stability of the farm for the immediate and extended family, staff and contractors employed throughout the year. The generation of a stable income will mean that long term capital planning for the farm enterprise can be more securely delivered. This aspect is very much aligned to the Environment Minister's Agri-renewables Strategy 2011 and meets the wider Government target to make Scotland a net exporter of renewable electricity that generates revenue for Angus and Scotland.
- Construction, operation and maintenance of the turbine cluster will generate economic benefits for the local and regional supply chain both in terms of direct and indirect benefits. The capital expenditure of several million pounds sterling and an ongoing revenue spend over a 25 year life will bring considerable benefits to the area that do not presently exist. The net benefit could be £0.8 million and 7 job years.
- The turbines will directly benefit Angus Council in terms of the rateable value generated by the development.
- Wider benefits to the wider economy and society as a whole that are largely incalculable will be generated. The Government recognizes these benefits as part of its Energy Review.

12.2 Tourism

The recent Government Committee finding that there is no evidence that wind turbines have a negative impact on tourism confirms that this aspect is not a concern for machines that are properly planned and designed. The applicant has designed the development to minimise impact and mitigation measures have been put in place to achieve a sustainable development. A potentially negative impact on tourism is often a reason cited by objectors to wind farms, particularly in areas where tourism is an important driver of the local economy. The drivers of tourism are factors such as exchange rates, the state of the economy, trends in leisure time and pursuits etc, not wind farm developments.

The most substantive survey to date is the Moffat Report (2008) "The Economic Impacts of Wind Farms on Scottish Tourism: A Report for the Scottish Government", which concludes that wind farms are not a major factor in visitors decision making, while amongst those who do take note of them, most regard them as having either a positive or a neutral effect on the landscape.

The Insight Department of VisitScotland Wind Farm Consumer Research Topic Paper of 2011 contains the results of commissioned research on attitudes to wind farms and their effect on tourism. This research was carried out to inform VisitScotland policy.

VisitScotland's Position Statement – Wind Farms of May 2012 confirms that their latest study suggests that wind farms have a limited impact on tourist views, however the organisation would encourage all future development to continue to be sensitively sited.

In April 2012, a University of Edinburgh study entitled, Tourism Impact of Wind Farms, reviewed primary and secondary research carried out and concluded that, "there has been no measurable economic impact, either positively or negatively of wind farms on tourism". The Report notes that the opposition to wind farms on tourism grounds is informed more by fear than fact. The reports described here are included within Appendix 12.

Tourism is certainly important to the area with activities like fishing, hill walking and cycling popular in the hills and rivers around the site. It is considered that because of the relatively small size and scale of this development, there will be no discernible impact on tourism.

12.3 Conclusion

The greatest impact is expected to result from the short term development and construction economic benefits to the local area. These impacts are expected to be moderate/minor in Angus, which could benefit from £0.8 million and 7 job years.

No negative economic impacts are likely to arise from this development.

13 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

13.1 Project Scoping

The Scope of the Transport Assessment has been agreed with Angus Council through the Environmental Impact Assessment screening process.

Key issues identified are as undernoted:

- Details of access point to site
- Existing condition of local road network
- Detailed Assessment of Local Roads to Site
- Details of Abnormal Load Movements
- Details of Construction Traffic Movements
- Impacts of additional traffic on existing traffic flows
- Traffic Management requirements
- Suitability of access and parking arrangements

Angus Council have not identified a requirement for consultation with Transport Scotland in respect of possible impacts of vehicle movements, given the anticipated modest levels of Abnormal Load and construction traffic movements. Consultation with Trunk Road Network Administration in respect of the possible limitations on the movement of Abnormal Loads has been undertaken.

13.2 Development Location

The wind cluster site is located at Cairny Hill, approximately 5km to the west of Edzell, Angus. The general location of the site is shown at Figure 13.1.



Figure 13.1 Context Plan of Development

Definitions

A glossary of Definitions used throughout this report is contained at Appendix 13.

13.3 National, Regional and Local Policy

National, Regional and Local Policy has been reviewed elsewhere in the Report and will not be dealt with in detail here. Local Policy notes that under Policy ER34, that developments should ensure that ‘access for construction and maintenance traffic can be achieved without compromising road safety or causing unacceptable permanent and significant change to the environment and landscape.’ Furthermore, Policy ER35, Wind Energy Development notes that, Wind energy developments must meet the requirements of Policy ER34 and also demonstrate: ‘(g) a realistic means of achieving the removal of any apparatus when redundant and the restoration of the site are proposed.’

The LTS notes as a Vision/Aim within the section on Road Network:

‘To provide a safe, well maintained, accessible uncongested roads network to enable people and goods to move in the most effective and efficient way throughout Angus.’

The LTS goes on to note that:

‘Bridges are key links in the road network infrastructure particularly for freight movement and the Council completed the assessment of its own bridges to check their carrying capacity prior to the introduction of the new Construction and use Regulations (5-axle 40T vehicles and 6-axle 44T vehicles). A programme is in hand for the assessment of all privately owned bridges carrying public roads within Angus. Following on from these assessments strengthening work is progressing where required taking into account available funding and the importance of each bridge to the strategic route network. The Council has been liaising closely with Railtrack and Rail Property Ltd in prioritising and carrying out these programmes.’

The LTS ensures that the local road network is maintained to a standard appropriate for the movement of large components and construction materials.

IGREP was issued by Angus Council in 2012 as Supplementary Guidance in support of ALPR Policies ER34 Renewable Energy Developments and ER35 Wind Energy Development which are reviewed above.

IGREP notes under Access and Traffic Management for Turbines greater than 50m in height that:

‘Access arrangements and traffic management plan and suitable route for large vehicles to be agreed with Angus Council Roads Division. Any required road improvements to be implemented prior to commencement of construction.’

Summary

Proposals for a wind cluster at Lower Cairny are in accord with current policy at National, Regional and Local level. The preparation of this Transport Assessment addresses the specific requirements of the planning authority in considering the transportation implications of delivery of turbine components and construction materials via the adjoining access road network in line with Policy.

13.4 Abnormal Load Route Assessment

This section will confirm suitability of the proposed route for the transport of turbine components from the preferred Port of Entry to the wind cluster site.

Consultations have utilised the Enercon E-48 Turbine manufacturer specification.

13.4.1 Consultations

Consultations with Port of Dundee and Montrose Harbour confirm both ports have capability to accommodate turbine components.

Initial consultations with Angus Council and Transport Scotland confirmed the suitability in principle of the Abnormal Load routes outlined below. The recommended Abnormal Load Route is from Port of Dundee via A972 and A90(T) to Keithock junction, B966 to Edzell, and via the unclassified road west to the wind cluster site. However, consideration is also given to use of the route from Montrose as a Port of Entry. Consultation correspondence is reproduced at Appendix 13. It is anticipated that a trial run with an empty turbine blade trailer will be performed prior to the first delivery of turbine components.

13.4.2 Route Limitations

Route Limitations are features on the road network which cannot be modified in order to accommodate the passage of Abnormal Loads. Consultations with Angus Council identified that a structure on a possible alternate route from A90(T) located on B966 at Gannochy Bridge is unsuitable for the passage of turbine components in the context of a maximum overall vehicle weight of 120t identified by the turbine manufacturer. Consultations with Tayside Police identified a possible concern over the maximum height clearance at Dalhousie Arch, Edzell. Angus Council have confirmed the dimensions of the arch which provide an approximate clearance width of 4.2m at the 4.6m maximum height required, more than sufficient for the maximum component width of 3.7m.

13.4.3 Abnormal Load Dimensions

The key load dimensions for turbine components are identified in Table 13.1.

Table 13.1 Abnormal Load Dimensions

Abnormal Load Dimensions				
	Weight (t)	Height (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)
Tower sections (maximum)	24	3.89	3.74	20.1
Blades	9	2.72	2.47	24.7
Nacelle/Generator	30	3.25	4.95	5.08
Maximum Axle Load (tonnes)	12			
Maximum Load (tonnes)	120			
Clearances		4.6	5	

13.4.4 Route from Port of Entry

Abnormal loads are expected to be delivered to Port of Dundee and will route as undernoted from Dundee. This route is illustrated at Appendix 13, Diagram 1, with the local route from Edzell village shown in more detail at Diagram 2.

- Stannergate Road, Dundee to A930 Broughty Ferry Road
- A930 Broughty Ferry Road to A92 Greendykes Road (reverse)
- A92 Greendykes Road to A972 Kingsway East
- A972 Kingsway East to A90 Forfar Road
- A90(T) to B966 at Keithock
- B966 to Edzell village (reverse)
- Lethnot Road west to site access in vicinity of Tillydovie Farm

Recent improvements at Port of Dundee now permit turbine components to depart from the East Gate towards the local road network.

13.4.5 Review of route from alternative Port of Entry

Consideration to the use of an alternative Port of Entry at Montrose has been given. The route is also illustrated at Diagram 1.

- Montrose Harbour to A92 Rossie Island Road
- A92 to A935 Medicine Well Road
- A935 Medicine Well Road to A935 Brechin Road
- A935 via Brechin to B966 Trinity Road
- B966 Trinity Road to Edzell village (reverse)
- Lethnot Road west to site access in vicinity of Tillydovie Farm

13.4.6 Alterations to the Abnormal Load Route

The route inspection identifies the undernoted principal constraints on the Abnormal Load route options which are envisaged to require temporary alteration to accommodate the passage of turbine components. These constraints are identified subject to the completion of a turbine blade test run which will be performed following the issue of Detailed Planning Consent and the implementation of temporary works to confirm the adequacy of the alterations and identify any further requirement for minor alterations which have not been identified from the initial route inspections and swept path analysis.

A further route inspection will be required prior to the commencement of temporary works to confirm requirements for temporary works, as conditions may have changed as a consequence of alterations to the road network not currently planned. In particular, confirmation will be sought from Angus Council and Transport Scotland that there are no changes to weight limits on structures.

In order to permit movement of replacement components during the Wind Cluster operational phase, all identified alterations are expected to require reinstatement which will allow the route to be re-used if necessary. The use of removable signage, flat central and modular traffic islands are identified as measures which can be utilised in such circumstances.

Swept Path Analyses for 24m blades are provided in Appendix 13 at drawings 97659/8001 to 97659/8006 and 97659/8010-11. The approach to Bridge of Margie is constrained by a sloping embankment to the right and as the initial blade trailer swept path shown at drawing 97659/8005 shows the rear overhang crossing this embankment, consideration has been given to the transport of a single 24m blade at drawing 97659/8007 and to twin 24m blades in a forward position on the trailer at drawing 97965/8009 to ensure that the blades can be accommodated at this location. Movement of the widest tower section which is 18m in length has also been assessed at Bridge of Margie at 97659/8008 to take account of this possible constraint. It has been assumed that all component moves will be accompanied by a second rear tractor unit to allow reversal of the load trailer as required. Swept Path Analysis confirms suitability of the route in principle.



Rear tractor unit in use on abnormal load move

Angus Council have indicated that passage of components on B966 over Westwater Bridge should follow the centre line of the bridge and be at slow speed.

Locations where possible alterations to the road network may be required are as undernoted.

A930 Broughty Ferry Road via A92 Greendykes and A972 Kingsway to A90 Forfar Road

- Removal and reinstatement of junction signage/pedestrian fencing/bollards

A90 at B966 junction

- Removal and reinstatement of traffic bollards/signage to allow use of southbound carriageway at B966 roundabout



B966 at A90 looking towards Edzell

B966 High Street Edzell at Lethnot Road

- Removal and reinstatement of traffic bollards/signage to allow reversal



B966 High Street Edzell at Lethnot Road

Lethnot Road at Edzell Old Parish Church

- Possible removal and reinstatement of wire fencing at Graveyard



Edzell Old Parish Church Graveyard

Lethnot Road at Bridge of Margie

- Clearing of vegetation to north side of carriageway (may require blades to be moved singly rather than in pairs to reduce width at 24m length)



Bridge of Margie looking west

Lethnot Road at Witton Farm

- Removal and reinstatement of fencing to north side of carriageway

Further requirements for minor alterations such as removal of overhanging branches are anticipated to be identified as part of the detailed route inspection immediately prior to a test run.

Locations where possible alterations to the road network may be required on the route from the alternate Port of Entry at Montrose are as undernoted. Angus Council have confirmed that the bridge parapets at A935 Arrat Bridge can be raised or lowered as required to accommodate Abnormal Loads.

A92 Basin View at Montrose Railway Station

- Removal and reinstatement of junction signage/pedestrian fencing/bollards



A92 Basin View at Montrose Railway Station

A935 Brechin at Montrose Road

- Removal and reinstatement of signage to accommodate reversal

A935 Brechin at B966 junction

- Removal and reinstatement of bollards

**A935/B966 junction in Brechin**

The use of the alternative Port of Entry at Montrose would have the benefit of reducing the overall distance over which the turbine components require to be moved. The route from Dundee whilst longer has the benefit of utilising the principal road network in Dundee, much of which is dual carriageway and with limited frontage access, and the Trunk Road network, and minimises impacts on residential areas as far as possible.

13.4.7 Access to Site from Local Road Network

Access will be provided from the unclassified road by means of a simple priority junction. Drawing 97659/8012 confirms available visibility splays.



Lethnot Road looking east to Edzell with site access to left

Lethnot Road at the site access is extremely lightly trafficked and it is not considered necessary in view of the predicted very modest additional traffic flows to improve visibility splays beyond those existing.

13.4.8 Summary and Conclusions

The Abnormal Load Route Assessment confirms in principle the feasibility of the transportation of turbine components from Port of Entry to the site.

A test run from the agreed Port of Entry to the site will be required prior to the commencement of site enabling works.

13.5 Route Condition Survey

13.5.1 Introduction

The Scoping process with Angus Council requested that consideration be given to the condition of the route between A90(T) and the wind cluster site.

Dialogue with Angus Council confirmed that for the purposes of this report, a visual inspection as part of the Route Inspection process supported by photographs would be sufficient.

It is suggested that a further two-way Condition Survey be performed by video on Lethnot Road from Edzell village to the site immediately prior to the commencement of the construction period, as road surface conditions may have changed in the intervening period.

B966 from Keithock Junction to Edzell Village

This section of route was surveyed in a northbound direction. Road surface condition was noted as generally of an acceptable standard with little evidence of dilapidation.

Damage to the road surface at Westwater Bridge was noted on approach from the south and on the bridge itself.



B966 Westwater Bridge looking north

In Edzell village, the road surface at the roundabout junction with the unclassified Lethnot Road was noted as having some level of deterioration which appears in part to have arisen from previous roadworks.



Edzell village looking west to Lethnot Road

Lethnot Road from Edzell Village to site

This section of route was surveyed in a westbound direction. The road surface condition was again noted as generally of an acceptable standard as far as Witton Farm.

Several instances of deterioration of the edge of the carriageway surface, particularly on the inside of bends where vehicles may encroach on the verge as a result of the provided road width, were noted. An example of this type of dilapidation will be presented in this section but it is not intended to identify each location for the purposes of this report as the existing damage is generally minor.

Deterioration of the surface was however more noticeable beyond Witton Farm as far as the site access in the vicinity of Tillydovie Farm.

Lethnot Road was noted as in poor condition within the built form of the village with evidence of earlier roadworks having contributed to this deterioration.



Lethnot Road in Edzell - north side of carriageway

Damage was observed west of Mains of Edzell farm which appears to be related to an intervention to deal with a drainage issue.



Lethnot Road west of Mains of Edzell farm

An example of the minor deterioration observed at carriageway edges at some points is presented below.



Edzell Old Parish Church looking west

The westbound approach to Bridge of Margie was noted as in poor condition. This may in part have been as a result of works currently ongoing at Margie Farm.



Westbound approach to Bridge of Margie

The general condition of the road surface west of Witton Farm was noted as poorer than that encountered elsewhere on the Route Inspection, with evidence of patching and frost damage more prevalent than evidenced from Edzell village westwards as far as Witton Farm.



Lethnot Road west of Witton Farm

13.5.2 Summary and Conclusion

The Route Condition Survey identifies that B966 between A90 at Keithock Junction and Edzell village is generally of an acceptable standard, with minor damage to the road surface noted at Westwater Bridge. The survey identifies that Lethnot Road westwards to the wind cluster site at Lower Cairny has a number of locations where existing damage to the road surface exists.

It is recommended that a video survey of Lethnot Road from Edzell village to site be performed immediately prior to the commencement of enabling and construction works to confirm where existing Dilapidation exists.

13.6 Impact Assessment

13.6.1 Introduction

The methodology employed in this assessment has been developed from guidance provided in the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation's (CIHT) 'Guidelines for Traffic Impact Assessments' and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's (IEMA) 'Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic'. Methodologies detailed in the IHT guidelines recommend

that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for large developments should be assessed in accordance with IEMA guidelines. This guidance requires the assessment of Sensitivity, Magnitude and Significance, and a brief synopsis of each type of assessment is provided below.

13.6.2 Impact Magnitude and Sensitivity

The magnitude of traffic effects is a function of existing traffic volumes, percentage increase due to the proposals for the Development, and changes in type of traffic. IEMA Guidelines identify thresholds for effect magnitude based on percentage changes in traffic levels applicable to severance and intimidation effects. The magnitude of effects arising from the increase in traffic volumes (taken as being either the traffic flow including all vehicles or the HGV traffic flow, whichever is higher) is categorised as follows:

- Substantial: above 90% increase in existing traffic levels;
- Moderate: between 60% and 90% increase in existing traffic levels;
- Slight: between 30% and 60% increase in existing traffic levels; and
- Negligible: under 30% increase in existing traffic levels.

The determination of the magnitude of the effects will be undertaken by reviewing the proposals for the Development, establishing the parameters of the road traffic that have the potential to cause an effect (e.g., construction traffic), and quantifying these effects against the criteria set out above.

Consideration has been given to the composition of the traffic on the road network under both existing and predicted conditions. For example, cars and LGVs have less effect on traffic and the road system than HGVs. Similarly, HGVs could have less effect than abnormal load vehicles depending on the timing and frequency of the abnormal loads.

The sensitivity of roads to increased severance of communities and pedestrian delay and intimidation is conventionally evaluated based on the proximity and size of residential populations to each road section, in accordance with the IEMA guidelines. The IEMA guidelines do not provide specific criteria for evaluating sensitivity, however, for the purposes of this assessment, the sensitivity of road sections to changes in traffic levels will be evaluated on a scale of 'low', 'medium' and 'high', based on their usage by pedestrians and cyclists and the size of communities through which the road section passes.

13.6.3 Impact Significance

Significance of effects will be assessed based on the categories of sensitivity and magnitude (identified in accordance with the approach outlined above) as shown in Table 13.2 below.

Table 13.2 Impact Significance

Assessment of Significance of Effects on Road Sections			
	Sensitivity		
Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
Substantial	Major	Major	Moderate
Moderate	Major	Moderate	Minor
Slight	Moderate	Minor	Minor
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Effects will be considered to be significant where the effect is classified as being of 'major' or 'moderate' significance, for the purposes of the EIA Regulations.

13.6.4 Study / Assessment Limitations

The limitation preventing use of B966 Gannochy Bridge as an alternative route was identified. This limitation has no effect on the Impact Assessment presented as the alternative route from A90 Northwater Bridge junction via Edzell Woods passes through similarly modest levels of settlement to that via B966 from A90 Keithock junction.

13.6.5 Existing Environment

A route assessment including a full visual route inspection was undertaken to assess existing road layout and traffic conditions along the delivery and access routes to the site. This assessment enabled an abnormal load access route and a construction traffic access route and associated study area to be defined.

The study area from the Preferred Port of Entry at Dundee Port is defined as the undernoted roads:

- A90 in the vicinity of Keithock Junction
- B966 from A90 junction to Edzell village
- Unclassified road from Edzell village to Cairny Hill

In the event the alternate Port of Entry at Montrose is utilised, an alternate study area is identified as:

- A935 from Montrose to Brechin
- B966 from Brechin to Edzell village
- Unclassified road from Edzell village to Cairny Hill

13.7 Baseline Traffic Flows

AADT flow data on the trunk and local road network surrounding the site has been obtained from Transport Scotland and Angus Council ATC databases for locations along the preferred and alternative routes for Abnormal Load and Construction Traffic. The data is summarised at Table 13.3 below.

Table 13.3 Baseline Traffic Flows

Baseline Traffic Data	Year	5 Day Two Way AADT	HGV %
JTC00059 A90 Brechin Bypass - S of B966	2010	16943	8%
A935 Kincaig	2012	4353	10%
B966 Inchbare	2012	2922	14%

13.7.1 Construction Vehicles

Construction Vehicles (HGV) will route via the principal and local road network from their point of origin. Principal movement flows are envisaged to be of aggregate and concrete, and possible local supply points and routes for these are identified at Diagram 3.

In order to minimise the impact on the local road network in the immediate vicinity of the site, deliveries of crushed stone will be scheduled to ensure that loaded and empty vehicles should not meet on the unclassified road west from Edzell. No requirement for Routeing Orders is anticipated to be appropriate as there is no suitable alternative route to the site.

13.7.2 Construction Workers

Construction workers are anticipated to arrive by a variety of routes from the local area and from Dundee, utilising A90, A935 and B966 to connect to Lethnot Road towards the site.

13.7.3 Construction Phase Timing and Duration

The construction phase is estimated to be over a twelve month period, with initial mobilisation and the provision of an access road anticipated to take place over a period of three months. Construction of the two turbines is planned to take place over a further six months, with the final three months being required for commissioning and demobilisation. An indicative Construction programme with associated vehicle movements is shown at Appendix 13.

Traffic generating activities during this period include:

- Construction Site Mobilisation
- Access Track Improvements and Site Track Construction
- Compound and Laydown Area construction
- Turbine Foundation Construction
- Crane Hardstanding Construction
- On Site Buried Cable Laying
- Turbine delivery and erection
- Substation Construction
- Commissioning and Site Demobilisation

13.7.4 Abnormal Loads Trip Generation

Abnormal loads trip generation is shown at Appendix 13. Approximately 16 abnormal load trips (turbine delivery plus cranes) are anticipated to be made over a 5 month period.

13.7.5 Abnormal Loads Trip Timing and Duration

If required, abnormal loads could travel in convoys. The overall distance from port to site is approximately 57km from Port of Dundee via A90(T) and B966. If the Port of Entry is identified as Montrose, distance via A92/A935/B966 is noted as approximately 31km. The ability to use Montrose Port for delivery of components significantly reduces the overall distance the components require to be transported, limiting the impacts on the road network. The Trunk Road network is however designed to permit movements of abnormal loads, and it is recommended that Port of Dundee be used in preference to Montrose to minimise impacts on settlements.

If required by Tayside Police, stops could be made along the route to permit overtaking and reduce delays to other vehicles. It is envisaged that abnormal load deliveries will be made overnight at weekends to minimise as far as practicable impacts on other road users. It is therefore not possible to estimate an overall journey time.

13.7.6 HGV Trip Generation

Plant, equipment and temporary buildings would be required to mobilise and establish the construction site compound at the outset and to demobilise it upon completion.

HGV deliveries during the construction period would include bulk construction materials such as concrete and aggregate, steel bars, and smaller components such as cables and transformers which can be accommodated within a standard HGV of up to 44t.

The sourcing of materials required for the construction of new access tracks and upgrading of existing tracks is envisaged to be from local quarries.

It is estimated that on average, 8 HGVs would access the site on a daily basis over the construction period, assuming a 20 day working month. During the main construction period, approximately 15 HGVs per day would deliver stone for access tracks and compound areas along with a very modest number in connection with component delivery and other activities.

The Traffic Management Plan will be developed to minimise HGV movements during conventional peak periods and limit the number of arrivals within specific time periods to prevent “convoy” movement of construction materials and reduce the requirement for HGV to pass on Lethnot Road.

13.7.7 Construction worker traffic

It is estimated that on average up to 15 light vehicles would access the site on a daily basis throughout the construction period. This robust estimate is based on a similar scale of site where 5 turbines were being constructed where the average was identified as 17 vehicles per day.

13.8 Traffic Flows

Table 13.4 summarises the peak and average increases in traffic during construction at the assessment points and describes their significance in terms of the predicted increase in traffic volumes.

Table 13.4 Traffic Flows

Location	Year	AADT	NRTF Low Growth	Predicted Impacts of Additional Traffic									Effect
				2013 AADT	One Way AADT	Max Veh	%	HGV %	HGV	Max HGV	%		
A90 south of B966	2010	16943	1.035	17528	8764	30	0.3%	8%	701	15	2%	Negligible, Not Significant	
B966 Inchbare	2012	2922	1.012	2957	1478	30	2.0%	14%	210	15	7%	Negligible, Not Significant	
A935 Kincaig	2012	4353	1.012	4404	2202	30	1.4%	10%	227	15	7%	Negligible, Not Significant	

HGVs and Construction personnel vehicles would both average a maximum of 15 one way movements per day, making 30 in total. In comparison to the projected Base Traffic Flows at the assessment locations, this would represent an average increase of 2% on B966, with a 7% maximum increase in HGV traffic.

In terms of the thresholds outlined in the IEMA Guidelines, Table 13.4 illustrates that there would be a Not Significant effect on the access routes in terms of traffic flows.

Operational Phase Impacts

Increased traffic demands during the operational phase are predicted to be very modest, with daily maintenance requirements of the order of one two-way light vehicle trip. Six monthly servicing requirements are expected to result in a further five two-way trips each servicing period, and there will be very occasional requirements for HGV movements associated with replacement turbine components.

13.9 Decommissioning

It is envisaged that prior to decommissioning (expected to be 25 years from the date of formal commissioning) a further Transport Assessment may be required prior to the agreement of appropriate traffic management procedures with the relevant authorities. It is envisaged that turbine bases and access roads will remain in situ following decommissioning, with consequential reductions in the levels of traffic by comparison with the construction period. The dismantling of turbine components prior to removal could eliminate the requirement for Abnormal Load movements. Levels of traffic associated with the decommissioning process are predicted to have an insignificant impact on the local road network.

13.10 Cumulative Impact Assessment

No requirement for consideration of Cumulative Impacts arising from other wind farm projects in the local area has been identified by Angus Council during the Scoping process.

13.11 Proposed Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

This section identifies potential mitigation measures which could be implemented in order to minimise the traffic and transport impacts of the Construction, Operation and Decommissioning Phases of the Lower Cairny Wind Cluster.

During construction, utilisation of an upgraded existing farm track from the local road network to the wind cluster site will minimise impacts in the immediate vicinity of the site.

The implementation of an agreed traffic management plan and routeing strategy will minimise the impacts of construction traffic on the local road network, particularly during the morning and evening peak periods.

Whilst levels of car and light van movements associated with the construction phase of the project are envisaged to be at modest levels, it will nevertheless be appropriate to encourage staff to car-share. For the purposes of robust assessment of impacts, however, no allowance for car-sharing or shuttle bus transport has been made in considering staff travel to the site.

Following the granting of Detailed Planning Permission and prior to the construction phase of the project, a draft Traffic Management Plan would be submitted to Angus Council for approval and subsequent implementation by the principal contractor. Typically, a Traffic Management Plan will give consideration to the undernoted matters

- Appropriate Police or contractor escort to accompany Abnormal Load movements from Port of Entry, at times to be agreed with Police and Local Authorities
- Notification to general public along agreed route of Abnormal Load movements
- Signage notification to road users of Abnormal Load and Construction Traffic movements
- Specific timing of deliveries outwith peak traffic hours
- Arrangements for regular road maintenance and cleaning in the vicinity of the site access, to include visual inspection of road pavement condition and regular road sweeping arrangements
- Requirement for all vehicles accessing site to use wheel clean facilities
- Appropriate provision of temporary signage and traffic control where necessary

The very modest predicted levels of Traffic impacts during the operational phase of the wind cluster are not envisaged to require the provision of any mitigation measures.

A Traffic Management Plan would be prepared and agreed with Angus Council and Transport Scotland for the decommissioning process.

A requirement to monitor road conditions along the Abnormal Load and Construction Traffic Routes to allow any deterioration identified as a result of vehicle movements during the construction period to be rectified may be required.

13.12 Summary of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects

Table 13.5 summarises the potential effects, possible mitigation measures and residual effects during the Construction, Operation and Decommissioning phases of the wind farm.

Table 13.5 Summary of Effects

Summary of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects			
Potential Effects	Pre-Mitigation Effect	Mitigation	Residual Effects
Construction			
Increase in traffic along Lethnot Road, Edzell	Negligible	Traffic Management Plan to be agreed with Angus Council	Negligible, Not Significant and Temporary
Potential traffic delays by Abnormal Loads	Negligible	Abnormal Loads to be escorted overnight at weekends. Timings to be agreed with Dundee City and Angus Councils and Tayside Police. Traffic Management Plan	Negligible, Not Significant and Temporary
Increase in construction traffic along B966 and via Lethnot Road, Edzell	Negligible	Traffic Management Plan to be agreed with Angus Council. Consideration to scheduling system for construction deliveries	Negligible, Not Significant and Temporary
Operation			
Increase in traffic along Lethnot Road, Edzell	Negligible	None required	Negligible, Not Significant and Temporary
Potential replacement of large turbine components	Negligible	Transport arrangements and Mitigation measures to be agreed with Angus Council	Negligible, Not Significant and Temporary
Decommissioning			
Potential increases in HGV traffic on local road network	Negligible	Traffic Management Plan to be agreed with Angus Council prior to decommissioning	Negligible, Not Significant and Temporary
Potential traffic delays by Abnormal Loads	Negligible	Traffic Management Plan to be agreed with Angus Council prior to decommissioning	Negligible, Not Significant and Temporary

Residual effects are noted as being negligible, **not significant** and temporary.

13.13 Statement of Significance

This Transport Assessment has assessed the likely significance of the effect of traffic movements associated with the development of the Lower Cairny Wind Cluster during the Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases.

The implementation of mitigation measures is expected to include an appropriate Traffic Management Plan and liaison as appropriate with Dundee City Council, Angus Council, Transport Scotland and Tayside Police.

The residual traffic and transport effects on all road networks within the study area have been assessed as being negligible, **not significant** and temporary.

13.14 Conclusions

National, Regional and Local Policy Review

The TA concludes that the Lower Cairny proposals are in accord with policy.

Abnormal Load Route Assessment

The Abnormal Load Route Assessment confirms in principle the feasibility of the transportation of turbine components from the identified Port of Entry to the site.

Route Condition Survey

The TA provides an assessment of the existing condition of the local road connection from A90(T) to site via B966 and Lethnot Road.

The Route Condition Survey identifies that B966 between A90 at Keithock Junction and Edzell village is generally of an acceptable standard, with minor damage to the road surface noted at Westwater Bridge.

The survey further identifies that Lethnot Road westwards to the windfarm site at Lower Cairny has a number of locations where existing damage to the road surface exists.

The TA recommends that a video survey be performed on Lethnot Road between Edzell and the wind cluster site immediately prior to the start of the construction period.

Impact Assessment

The TA provides an assessment of the impacts of the wind cluster utilising guidance provided by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

The TA identifies the Study Area and predicts the Traffic Impacts of the wind cluster during the Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases.

The TA concludes that the residual traffic and transport effects on all road networks in the study area are negligible, not significant and temporary.

Overall Conclusion

The Transport Assessment concludes that the construction of a Wind Cluster at Lower Cairny, Glen Lethnot, Angus can be accommodated without significant impacts on the identified approach road network during the construction or de-commissioning phases.

Glossary of Terms

<i>Abnormal Load</i>	<i>Large or heavy load which requires specialist large goods vehicle with Police or contractor escort</i>
<i>Port of Entry</i>	<i>Port where turbine components will arrive by sea for onward movement by road to the wind cluster site</i>
<i>Trunk Road</i>	<i>Principal Road which is the responsibility of Transport Scotland</i>
<i>Local Road</i>	<i>Road which is the responsibility of the appropriate local Council</i>
<i>AADT</i>	<i>Average Annual Daily Traffic</i>
<i>Vehicle Movement</i>	<i>All vehicle movements are considered in one direction only and compared with AADT for one direction</i>
<i>ATC</i>	<i>Automatic Traffic Counter</i>
<i>GVM</i>	<i>Gross Vehicle Mass</i>
<i>HGV</i>	<i>Heavy Goods Vehicle (above 7.5t GVM)</i>
<i>LGV</i>	<i>Light Goods Vehicle (up to 7.5t GVM)</i>

Chapter 14 CONCLUSIONS

This Environment and Planning Report has described the proposed development of two turbines at Lower Cairny and has demonstrated that a robust assessment process has been carried out. The assessment work has been carried out with guidance from Angus Council as well as consultation with Council Officers and other stakeholders. A detailed assessment of the aspects has been carried out to inform the findings in each environment and planning aspect area. The conclusions for each key aspect area are listed in the key chapters of the Report.

Diversification of the farm enterprise will ensure the long term stability of the farm for the immediate and extended family, staff and contractors employed throughout the year. The generation of a stable income will mean that long term capital planning for the farm enterprise can be more securely delivered. This aspect is very much aligned to the Environment Minister's Agri-renewables Strategy 2011 and meets the wider Government target to make Scotland a net exporter of renewable electricity that generates revenue for Angus and Scotland.

Construction, operation and maintenance of the turbine cluster will generate economic benefits for the local and regional supply chain both in terms of direct and indirect benefits. The capital expenditure of several million pounds sterling and an ongoing revenue spend over a 25 year life will bring considerable benefits to the area that do not presently exist.

The turbines will directly benefit Angus Council in terms of the rateable value generated by the development.

Wider benefits to the local and national economy and society as a whole that are largely incalculable will be generated. The Government recognises these benefits as part of its Energy Review.

Overall, the proposed development complies with the relevant elements of the Development Plan. The proposed development would not lead to any significant environmental impacts. The development is scaled such that there is no significant impact on landscape and visual amenity. The proposal has no significant lateral extent and will not cause 'clutter' in the landscape. Where appropriate, mitigation measures have been presented in the Report.

APPENDIX 1 SITE LOCATION AND CONSTRAINTS

APPENDIX 2 TURBINE AND SITE LAYOUT PLANS

APPENDIX 3 PLANNING

APPENDIX 4 LANDSCAPE DESIGN STATEMENT, VISUALISATIONS AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

LVIA Methodology Introduction

A1.1 The assessment methodology employed is largely based on the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Second Edition)', produced by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2002).

A1.2 The initial stages of the assessment process considers the baseline landscape and visual character, landscape designations and Government policy relevant to an assessment Study Area.

A1.3 The Study Area, on which the LVIA focuses, extends to include all areas from within which significant landscape and visual effects (as defined by EIA Regulations) are most likely to occur. This extends to x km from the site of the proposed wind energy development, and is consistent with the guidance provided in 'Visual Representation of Windfarms Good Practice Guidelines'. This radius was agreed with Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Natural Heritage, and has been used for all aspects of the landscape and visual assessment.

A1.4 The aim of the landscape and visual assessment is to:

- Identify, predict and evaluate potential key effects on particular elements of the landscape and visual resource arising from the proposed wind energy development;
- Outline the likely effects on the landscape and visual resource of the Study Area and the resulting overall significance of these effects arising from the proposed wind energy development.

A1.5 The **Landscape Resource** is defined here as:

The distinct spatial distribution, at a given moment in time, on the surface of the earth, of the physical components resulting from the interaction between natural and human processes over time, and which produce consistently occurring patterns and homogeneity of landscape character and landscape context and how these are experienced and valued.

A1.6 The **Visual Resource** is defined here as:

The assembly of components which provide an attractive visual setting or backcloth for activities.

A1.7 Assessment of sensitivity of existing baseline conditions and prediction of magnitude of change lead to the assessment of residual landscape and visual effects on particular elements and the overall landscape and visual effects on the Study Area. The significance of these effects can be defined.

A1.8 In order to provide a level of consistency to the assessment, the assessment has been based on pre-defined criteria.

A2 Sensitivity to Change

A2.1 The sensitivity of the landscape resource to changes associated with the proposed development can be defined as high, medium or low based on professional judgement of a combination of parameters, as follows:

- Landscape character - scale, enclosure, openness, land cover, texture and form;
- Landscape value - local, regional or national landscape statutory designations and non-statutory designated areas;
- Distribution of receptors; and
- Scope for mitigation.

A2.2 Usually, an area would not fit every criterion within just one category; but, rather, it would be categorised based on best fitting more of the criteria within one allocation than another.

Definition of Landscape Sensitivity	
High	<p>Key characteristics and features that are very sensitive to the location of a wind farm, such as simple or indistinct pattern, few existing foci, sense of intimacy and shelter and sense of wildness or wild land, and these contribute significantly to the distinctiveness of the landscape character type.</p> <p>The distinctive characteristics of the landscape are widely experienced and contribute significantly to the value of the landscape at a local, regional and national level.</p> <p>Designated landscapes e.g. National Scenic Area (NSA) and those identified as having possible landscape value, for example within SNH Search Areas for Wild Land (SAWL)</p>
Medium	<p>Key characteristics and features that are sensitive to the location of a wind farm, but with which the wind farm may also integrate, such as a landscape with a distinct pattern, with occasional prominent foci, large scale structures, a sense of enclosure and a landform to which wind turbines could fit.</p> <p>A landscape where the wind farm would not affect the key characteristics that contribute to the distinctiveness and/or value of the landscape.</p> <p>The distinctive characteristics of the landscape are only locally experienced and/or only contribute to the value of the landscape at a regional level.</p> <p>Regionally and locally valued landscapes, both designated such as Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), and non-designated areas.</p>

	Landscapes in which it is possible to site and design a wind farm to have minimal impacts within the landscape.
Low	<p>A landscape where the wind farm would not affect the key characteristics that contribute to the distinctiveness and/or value of the landscape. Landscape characteristics and features that do not make a significant contribution to landscape character or distinctiveness locally, or which are untypical or uncharacteristic of the landscape type.</p> <p>Areas where a wind farm would fit the key characteristics of the existing landscape and/ or where this can easily accommodate landscape change subject to careful design.</p> <p>The distinctive characteristics of the landscape are only experienced locally.</p> <p>Landscapes in which it is possible to site and design a wind farm to have minimal impacts within the landscape.</p>

A2.3 The sensitivity of the visual resource to changes associated with the proposed development is defined as **high, medium** or **low** based on professional interpretation of a combination of parameters, as follows:

- Location and nature of the view;
- Direction and extent of the view;
- Value/importance of the view
- Scope for mitigation (including ability of the view to absorb development); and
- Activity of the receptor and expectations, frequency and duration of the view.

A2.4 Usually, a view would not fit every criterion within just one category; but, rather, it would be categorised based on best fitting more of the criteria within one allocation than another.

Definition of Visual Sensitivity	
High	<p>Focused view or panoramic view in which a wind farm would form the dominant focus, distracting from existing elements or features. Existing view includes important landscape features with physical, cultural or historic attributes. Principal view from prominent buildings and residences, 'beauty spots' or popular viewpoints.</p> <p>Area designated for scenic value, or en route or in a location valued for its visual amenity.</p> <p>Wind farm difficult to integrate within visual composition, for example very complex pattern of elements, or these are of very different prominence or scale to wind turbines.</p> <p>Users of outdoor recreational facilities including those on footpaths, cycle routes</p>

	or rights of way and popular hill or mountain tops, and key vehicular access routes from which viewers' attention is directed to the landscape.
Medium	<p>Open, but unfocussed view in which a wind farm would be seen as one of several foci.</p> <p>Existing view includes some important landscape features with physical, cultural or historic attributes. Forms secondary or marginal part of view from prominent buildings and residences, 'beauty spots' or popular viewpoints.</p> <p>View within area of some scenic value, although not designated. Or visible along route or in location that is valued as having scenic value. Wind farm able to be accommodated within visual composition, for example in relation to linear features or pattern of point features, although this would result in some change to the pattern and/or nature of this composition. Wind turbines would be of similar prominence to existing visual features.</p> <p>Users of outdoor recreational facilities including local footpaths, cycle routes or rights of way, en route to locally popular hill or mountain tops whose attention may be focused on the landscape. Local access routes.</p>
Low	<p>Unfocussed and/or partially screened view in which a wind farm would be seen as a minor element of the view.</p> <p>Existing view does not include important landscape features with physical, cultural or historic attributes. Site not clearly visible from prominent buildings or residences, 'beauty spots' or popular viewpoints. View not within area of recognised scenic value and not designated. Not visible from routes, or in location, which are valued for their visual amenity.</p> <p>Wind farm able to be accommodated within visual composition, for example in relation to linear features or pattern of point features without significant change to the pattern and/or nature of this composition. Wind turbines would be of similar or lesser prominence to existing visual features.</p> <p>Local users whose attention is likely to be focused on work or activity rather than the wider landscape, for example using local access routes to travel to/from work or working within an industrial or commercial centre.</p>

A3 Magnitude of Change

A3.1 The magnitude of change to the landscape resource arising from the proposed development at any particular point is described as **high, medium, low, negligible** or **none** based on the interpretation of a combination of largely quantifiable parameters as follows:

The scale of the change;

- Whether the change would affect key landscape characteristics on which the distinctive qualities of the landscape character type rely and/or for which it is valued, and thus result in a loss of landscape resource;
- The nature of the change in relation to landscape characteristics and whether this is beneficial or adverse; and
- The duration of the change and whether this is temporary or permanent.

A3.2 The magnitude of change to the visual resource arising from the proposed development at any particular viewpoint is described as **high, medium, low, negligible** or **none**. The considerations which have been taken into account during the assessment of the effect on visual amenity at individual viewpoints can be grouped as follows:

- Information regarding the viewpoint location and the people using it;
- The existing visual amenity at the viewpoint; and
- The change to visual amenity caused by the introduction of the proposed development.

A3.3 Within each of these groups, specific considerations have been examined for each viewpoint and these are described below. It should be noted that not all considerations are always relevant for every viewpoint.

Description of the Viewpoint and its Users

- Location;
- Direction of view to the proposed development scheme;
- The likely numbers and types of people visiting the viewpoint, the purpose of their visit to that viewpoint, and the nature of their activities;
- The likely duration of the view obtained by users;
- Scenic (landscape) designation.

Description of the Existing Visual Amenity at the Viewpoint

- The extent of view obtainable in terms of panorama and distance;
- The visual character of the view;
- The occurrence of existing visual foci in the view;
- The occurrence of any existing visual forces in the view (“visual force” occurs when a static image gives an illusion of energy or movement – visual forces in landform draw the eye down and up slopes);
- The nature of the skyline profile;
- The range of different landscape components comprising the view;
- The visual inter-relationship between the range of landscape components in terms of simplicity or complexity;
- Particularly prominent patterns discernible in the view;
- Colours present in the view;

- Motion present in the view;
- The impression of scale of the landscape resulting from the combination of landform, vegetation and other factors;
- A sense of remoteness;
- The presence or absence of man-made features in the view;
- The scenic attractiveness of the view;
- The potential for change in the future.

Description of the Change to Visual Amenity at the Viewpoint caused by the Proposed Development

- The number of elements comprising the development which will be visible;
- The extent of each element of the development which will be visible;
- The inter-relationship of the development's elements;
- The extent of ground/sky forming a backcloth;
- The extent of visual obstruction created by the development;
- The relationship of the development to skyline/horizon profile;
- Change in visual character;
- Creation of a new visual focus;
- Alteration to existing patterns in the view;
- Influence of the scale of the development on the impression of scale of the view;
- Alteration to sense of remoteness;
- Alteration as a result of the introduction of man-made elements;
- Change to scenic attractiveness of view;
- Potential for screening.

Definition of Magnitude of Change	
High	Fundamental change to the characteristics of the landscape or visual resource.
Medium	Considerable change to the characteristics of the landscape or visual resource.
Low	Noticeable change to the characteristics of the landscape or visual resource.
Negligible	Discernible change, but usually only in atypical circumstances, for example exceptional weather conditions, or not influencing the key characteristics of the landscape or visual resource. These impacts are thus classified as the 'no change' situation.
None	No change to the landscape or visual resource.

A4 Adverse and Beneficial

A4.1 When assessing effects on the landscape and visual resource, the following categorisation has been used:

- **'Adverse'** – the key characteristics of the landscape and visual resource are compromised;
- **'No effect'** – the key characteristics of the landscape and visual resource are not affected; and
- **'Beneficial'** – key characteristics of the landscape and visual resource are reinforced.

A5 Significance

A5.1 Significance of effects are based on two principal criteria - the magnitude of the change and the sensitivity of the location or person affected by the change (receptors). To comply with GLVIA, the definition of significance requires to be stated in relation to the specific circumstances of an individual development and landscape.

A5.2 To determine the significance of effect of the development on the landscape resource, the following factors are considered:

- The sensitivity of the landscape to the type of change proposed;
- The nature of the effect (i.e. whether the key characteristics of the existing landscape resource of the Study Area, and their consistency throughout that area, are reinforced or weakened as a result of the changes in landscape character brought about by the introduction of the proposed development);
- The quality of the landscape characteristics affected and the potential for enhancement;
- The value of landscape elements, feature or characteristics and the recognition of this by designation at various levels, such as local, regional, national and international and the effect of the change on the integrity of the designated area;
- The magnitude of the effect and whether the change would be positive, adverse, temporary or permanent; and
- The type and rate of other changes that are likely to occur in the landscape resource of the Study Area in the future.

A5.2 To determine the significance of the effect of the development on the visual resource, the following factors are considered:

- The nature of the effect (i.e. whether the scenic qualities of the view are strengthened or weakened as a result of the changes to visual amenity brought about by the introduction of the proposed development);
- The magnitude of the change;
- The sensitivity of the visual resource and receptors;

- The number of people affected by the change (although, changes affecting large number of people are generally more significant, this is not necessarily the case in sensitive landscape, for example areas of wild land);
- The type and rate of other changes that are likely to occur in the visual amenity of the Study Area in the future.

A5.3 Although assessment of effect significance, as described above, is based on professional judgment of a complex range of factors in relation to the sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of change, the following tables summarise and describe categories of significance to aid interpretation of this assessment. For individual effects, significance is measured in a scale of **no effect**, **slight**, **moderate** and **substantial**. For the overall landscape effect and visual effect of the proposed development within the Study Area, a determination is made regarding whether the likely effect would be significant or not significant.

Summary of Categories of Landscape Effect Significance	
Substantial Effect	The proposed development becomes a key characteristic of the landscape and/or changes the intrinsic landscape character of the area. A fundamental change to the landscape resource or a considerable change to a very sensitive or valued landscape.
Moderate Effect	Change affects the character of the landscape, but of a nature, scale or extent that does not change the intrinsic landscape character of the area. A considerable change to the landscape resource or a noticeable change to a very sensitive or valued landscape.
Slight Effect	Change introduces new element(s) into the landscape, but this does not affect the intrinsic landscape character of the area. A noticeable change to the landscape resource or barely perceptible change to a very sensitive/valued landscape.
No Effect	Negligible or no change.

Summary of Categories of Visual Effect Significance	
Substantial Effect	The proposed development dominates or has a defining influence on views. A fundamental change to the visual resource or a considerable change to very sensitive or valued views.
Moderate Effect	The proposed development is prominent and forms a focal feature, but the visual resource remains defined by the baseline conditions. A considerable change to the visual resource or a noticeable change to very sensitive or valued views.
Slight Effect	The proposed development is clearly visible, but as a minor feature and the visual resource remains defined by the baseline conditions. A noticeable change to the visual resource or barely perceptible change to very sensitive/valued views.
No Effect	Negligible or no change.

A5.4 Wherever possible, identified effects are quantified, but the nature of landscape and visual assessment often requires interpretation by professional judgment.

A5.5 EIA Regulations require judgment on the acceptability of a scheme to occur in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects on the environment. However, GLVIA explains that “in the context of EIA, however, ‘significance’ varies with the type of project and the topic under assessment” and “it may be helpful to define levels or categories of significance (including ‘not significant’) appropriate to the nature, size and location of the proposed development”. To satisfy these requirements, it is stated that, where landscape or visual effects of either moderate or substantial impact are identified by this LVIA, as described within the tables above, these should be considered as a significant effect as per the EIA Regulations. Accordingly, slight or no effects are considered as not significant.

A6 Sequential Impacts

A6.1 Sequential impacts occur when an observer moves through a landscape along a linear route, in relation to a series or continuum of viewpoints/experiences. These views may include other developments in addition to the proposed wind farm.

A7 Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts

A7.1 Cumulative impacts result from a relationship between more than one wind energy development and are the summation which results from the effects accruing from a proposed wind energy development in conjunction with effects from other previous, present or reasonably foreseeable similar developments within or in close proximity to the Study Area. Cumulative impacts are affected by:

- The number and distance between the developments;
- Their inter-visibility and sequential visibility;
- The overall character of the landscape and visual resource and the sensitivity of this to numerous wind energy developments; and
- The siting and design of the different developments.

A7.2 To comply with PAN 45 and other guidance, the assessment of the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of other wind energy developments in addition to the development proposal considers those "...in the vicinity that have been built, those which have permissions and those that are currently the subject of undetermined applications". Where operational wind farms and those under construction fall within the Study Area, these are considered as part of the baseline conditions against which the development proposal in isolation is assessed, as well as being considered as part of the cumulative assessment.

APPENDIX 5 ECOLOGY FIGURES

APPENDIX 6 GEOLOGY, HYDROGEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

As a first step, a Site Environment Plan will be created to guide the contracting staff into the best practice measures to be observed and implemented on the site during the period of the construction works.

Table 1 Explanation of mitigation measures to be employed to reduce risk of surface and groundwater pollution

ASPECT	MITIGATION MEASURE(S)
Construction Phase	
1. Soil removal releasing high solids to runoff and Turbine Foundation Excavation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure soil removal control measures are included within the Site Environment Plan. The Plan will include solutions that manage the entrapment of runoff water and solids removal by attenuation and filtration to control suspended solids levels. 2. Minimise where possible exposure of soil to rainfall by careful programme management. 3. Apply surface aggregate on roads and laydown areas to enable rainwater infiltration. 4. Protect edges of excavation from rainfall erosion by use of membranes or careful shuttering thus preventing release of solids. 5. Protect access to surface watercourse using simple effective barrier systems such as straw bales and sandbags. 6. Monitor site conditions carefully and make visual inspections on a regular basis.
2. Refuelling (diesel or oil) and other chemical spillage(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that all diesel, oil and chemical stores are bunded, locked and protected from the elements. 2. Spill kits will be provided to contain, and absorb any spillage. 3. Supervise refuelling operations.
3. Sewage disposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide suitable portable toilets for staff and clean and service them on a routine basis.

Operational Phase	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased runoff from additional temporary hardstand (roads, laydown areas etc)	1. Design roads to be compliant with SUDS best practice as defined under the relevant guidance.
Decommissioning Phase	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Soil removal and replacement	1. Minimise where possible exposure of soil to rainfall by careful programme management.

APPENDIX 7 ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

APPENDIX 8 NOISE

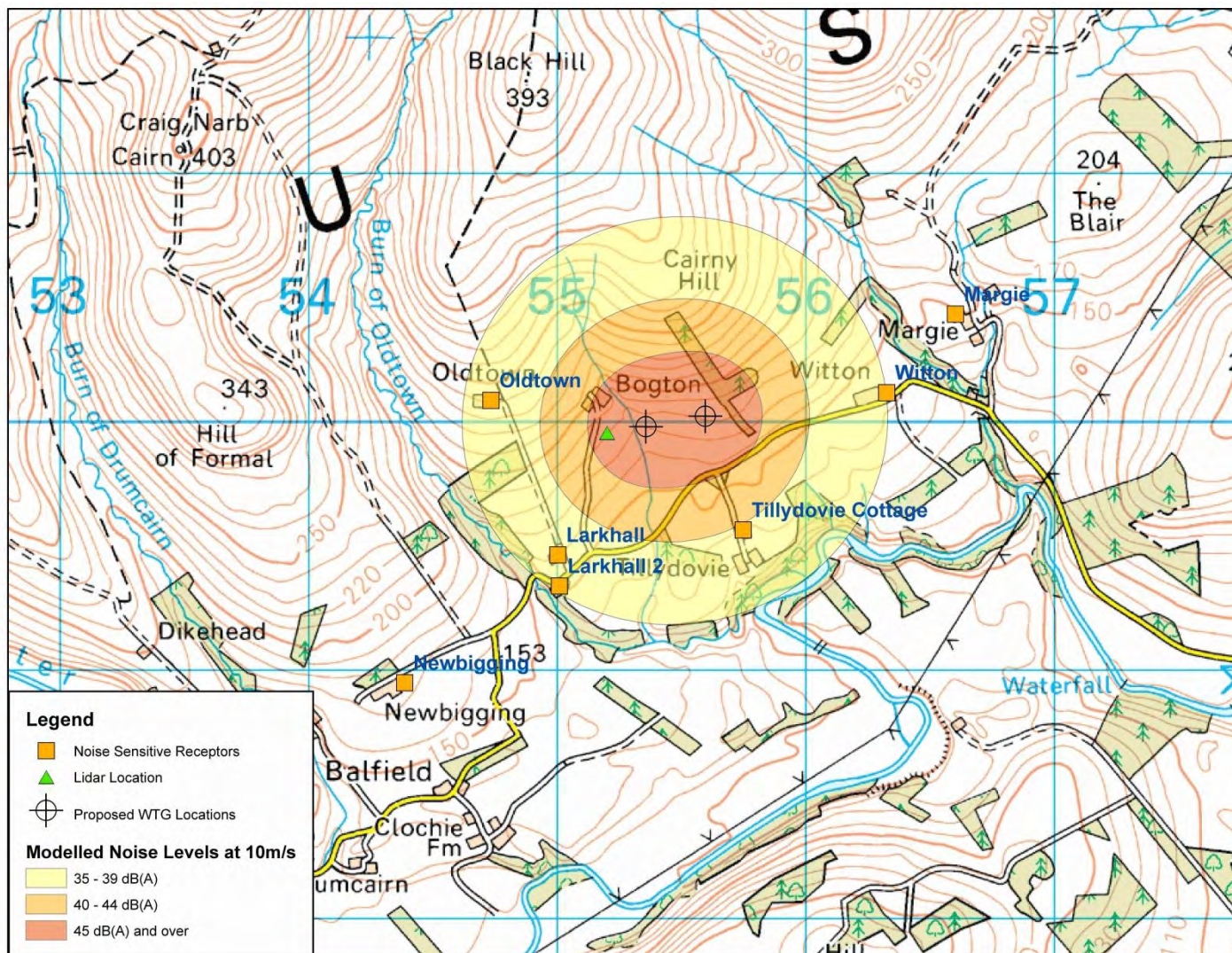


Figure 8.1: Map showing WTG locations, Receptors and Noise Contours at 10 m/s wind speed

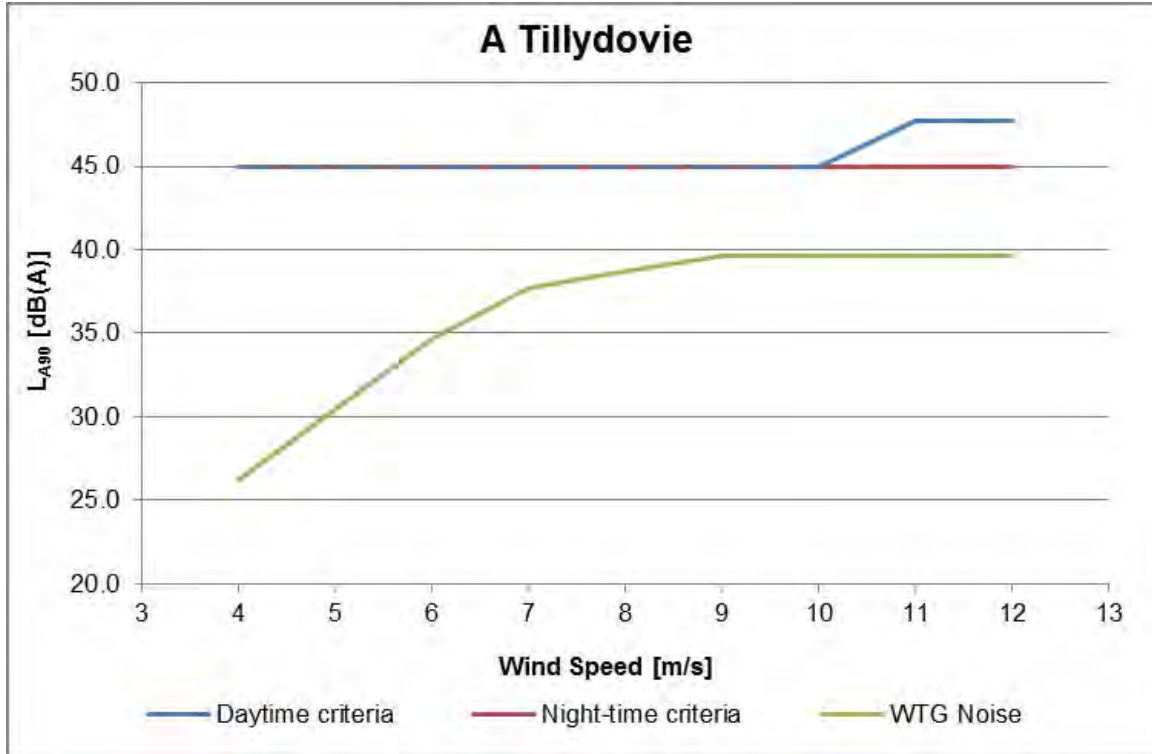


Figure B1: Predicted noise, compared with quiet daytime and night-time criteria, Tillydovie Cottage (Receptor A)

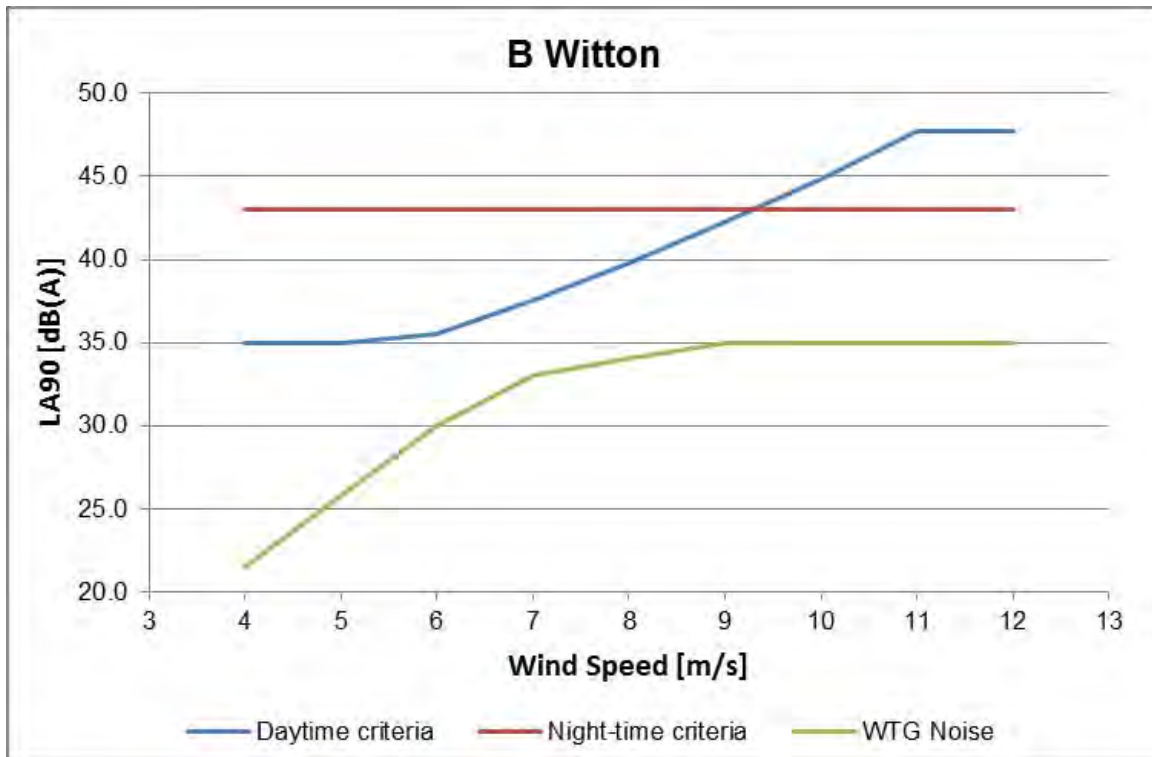


Figure B2: Predicted noise, compared with quiet daytime and night-time criteria, Witton (Receptor B)

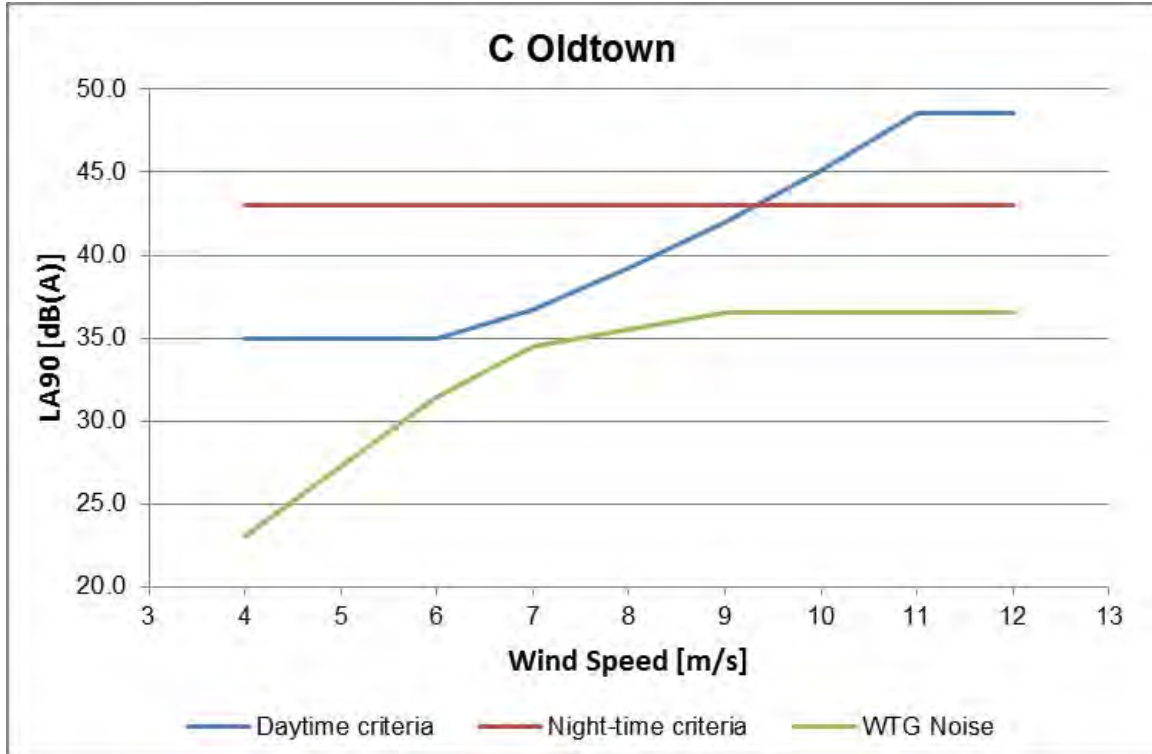


Figure B3: Predicted noise, compared with quiet daytime and night-time criteria, Oldtown (Receptor C)

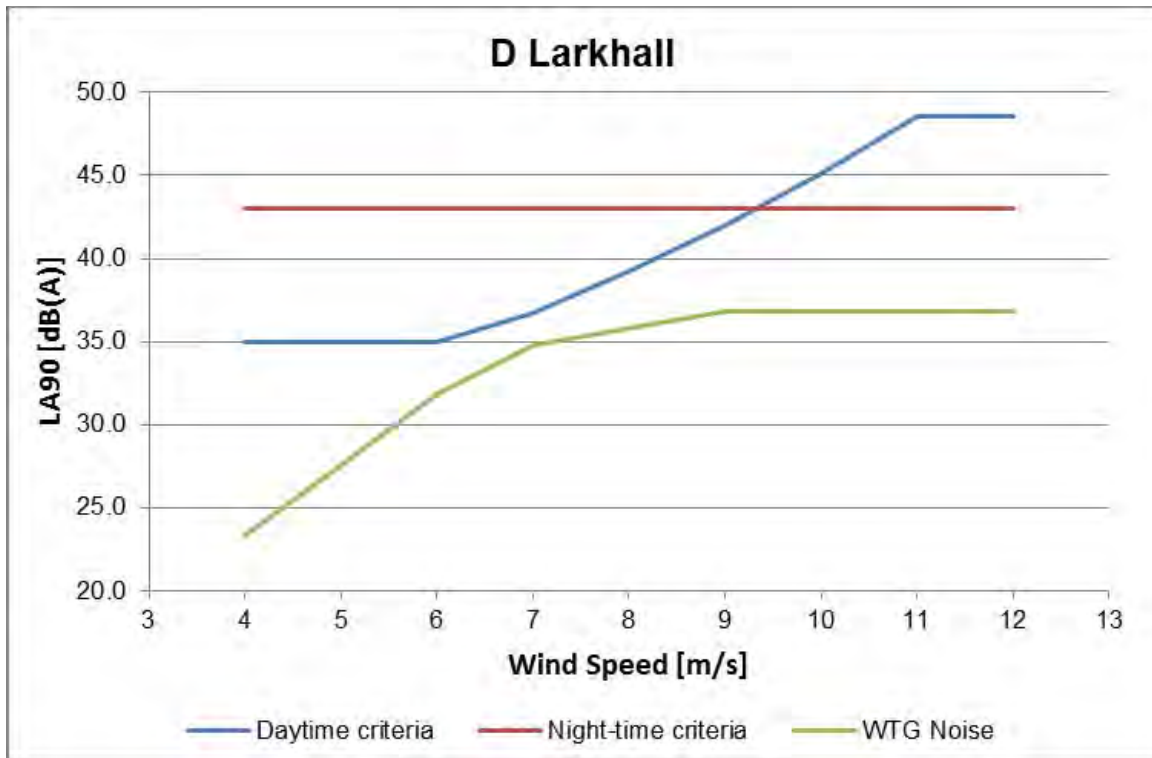


Figure B4: Predicted noise, compared with quiet daytime and night-time criteria, Larkhall (Receptor D)

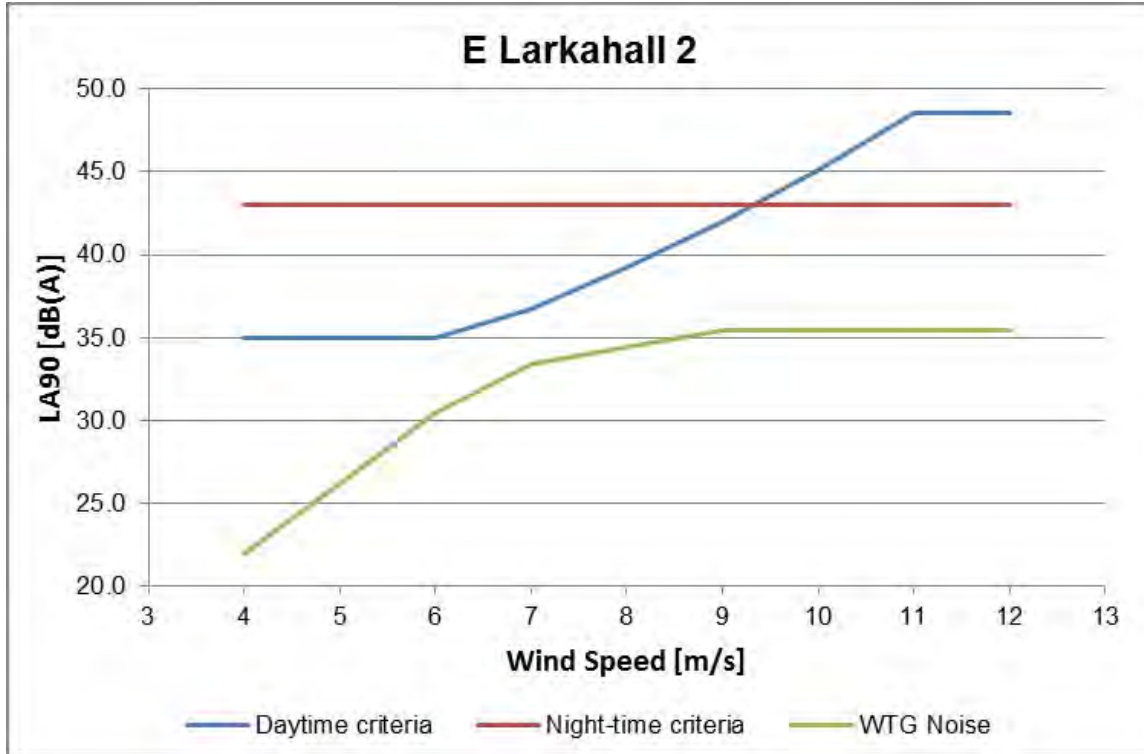


Figure B5: Predicted noise, compared with quiet daytime and night-time criteria, Larkhall 2 (Receptor E)

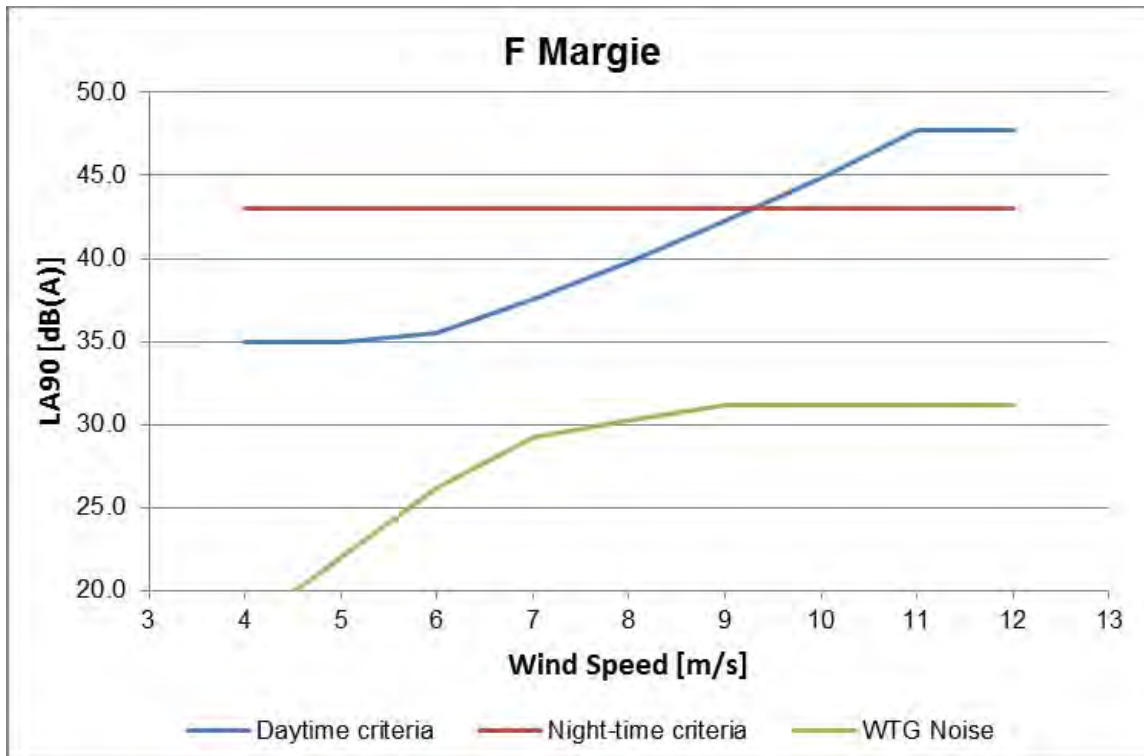


Figure B6: Predicted noise, compared with quiet daytime and night-time criteria, Margie (Receptor F)

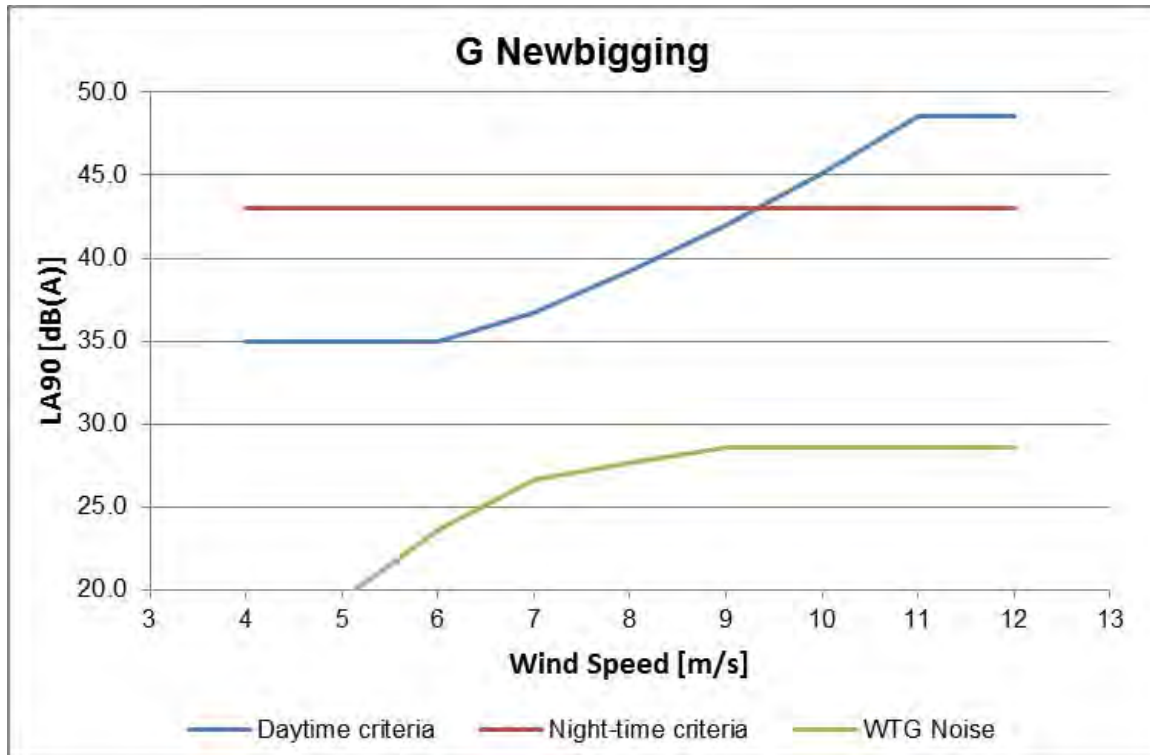


Figure B7: Predicted noise, compared with quiet daytime and night-time criteria, Newbigging (Receptor G)

APPENDIX 9 SHADOW FLICKER AND RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

APPENDIX 10 TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Television reception – output from BBC Windfarm Assessment Tool (via e-mail)

If you were to place turbines in the following locations:

NO355770

You would be likely to affect 0 homes for whom there is no alternative off-air service.

In addition, you may affect up to 0 homes for whom there may be an alternative off-air service.

The transmitters likely to be affected are:

DURRIS CH5
ANGUS

This information is provided for the guidance of Wind Farm developers. The results of this query are a rough estimate of populations that may suffer interference from wind farms built at the locations specified. The information is not intended to be a substitute for an on-site survey where the potential for disruption to television services may more accurately be assessed.

The BBC does not accept liability for the consequence of any use of the information provided by this web site. All television reception difficulties caused by the erection of wind turbines are the responsibility of the wind farm developer.

This email was automatically generated in response to a query at the BBC Windfarms Tool website. Please do not reply to this address.

If you wish to contact the BBC, please visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/feedback/>

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The BBC accepts no responsibility for this email. This email is generated by a request on the BBC webserver. If you were not expecting this email, please contact webweaver@bbc.co.uk including all headers from the email.

APPENDIX 11 AVIATION AND DEFENCE

APPENDIX 12 ECONOMY AND TOURISM

APPENDIX 13 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Part 1 Diagrams

Diagram 1 Routes from Ports of Entry to Site Plan

Diagram 2 Local Route (A90) to Site Plan

Diagram 3 Construction Material Routes

Diagram 4 Route Condition Survey

Swept Path Analysis Diagrams (assorted)

APPENDIX 13

Abnormal Loads and Construction Traffic Trip Generation

97659 Lower Cairny Wind Farm					
Data Entry Sheet					
Enercon E-48 Turbine					
Number of Turbines					2
Steel	(per base)			tonnes	18.2
Concrete	(per base)			m3	165
Hard Standing Area	(per base)			m2	1050
Site Access Tracks	Estimated			m	1000
Compound Area	40m x 40m			m2	1600
Laydown Area	100m x 100m			m2	10000
Substation Area	Estimated			m2	100
Turbine Base		Height	m		1.6
Turbine Base		Diameter	m		15
Site Perimeter Track	Estimated			m	500
Cabling Links	Estimated			m	500
Cabling Trough Width				m	0.5
Cabling Trough Depth				m	0.225
Non HGV Movements	Estimated			Monthly	15

97659 Lower Cairny Wind Farm														
Average Daily Vehicle Movements														
HGV and Abnormal	Total HGV	Mth 1	Mth 2	Mth 3	Mth 4	Mth 5	Mth 6	Mth 7	Mth 8	Mth 9	Mth 10	Mth 11	Mth 12	Check
Mobilisation - Machinery	13	7	7											13
Abnormal Loads	13					3	3		3	3				13
Police Escorts	26					7	7		7	7				26
Assembly Cranes	3				3									3
Substation and Building	17	9	9											17
Crushed Stone	1698		283	283	283	283	283	283						1698
Culverts/Geotextiles	1				1									1
Steel and Concrete	57				10	10	10	10	10	10				57
Cabling	33				6	6	6	6	6	6				33
Commissioning and Demobilisation	13											7	7	13
Total HGV Movements	1874	15	298	283	302	308	308	298	25	25	0	7	7	1874
Daily Average HGV Movements	20 day month	1	15	14	15	15	15	15	1	1	0	0	0	8
Daily Average non HGV movements	20 day month	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Total Average vehicle movements		16	30	29	30	30	30	30	16	16	15	15	15	23

97659 Lower Cairny Wind Farm							
Crushed Stone Requirements							
	Depth	Width	Length	Area m2		Turbines	Qty m3
Site Access Tracks	0.5	5	1000				2500
Compound Area	1.5			1600			2400
Laydown Area	1.5			10000			15000
Substation Area	1.5			100			150
Hard Standing Area	1.5			1050		2	3150
	Height m				Diameter m	Turbines	
Turbine Bases	1.6				15	2	565
Total Crushed Stone Requirements							23765
Assumed average load							14
Total Number of Loaded Vehicle Movements							1698
Geotextile Requirements		Width	Length	Area	Turbines	Quantity	
		m	m			m2	
Site Access Tracks		5	1000			5000	
Compound Area				1600		1600	
Laydown Area				10000		10000	
Substation Area				100		100	
Hard Standing Area				1050	2	2100	
Total Geotextile Requirements						18800	
10% allowance for overlap and wastage						1880	
Total Requirement						Assume 20000m2 per load	20680
Total Geotextile Loads						1	
Turbines and Bases - Steel and Concrete							
Turbines		2					
	Per Base			Per Load		Loads	
Steel	18.2 tonnes		36.4 tonnes	20 tonnes		2	
Concrete	165 m3		330 m3	6 m3		55	
Total HGV Movements Steel and Concrete						57	
Note: Crushed Stone for Bases forms part of total Crushed Stone calculation							
Cabling			Length m	per Drum	Drums	per Load	Loads
Trefoil Cabling on Perimeter Access Road			500				
Cabling Links to Turbine Sites			500				
CSA Bare Copper Earth Tape			1000	250	4	12	1
Cabling		Cables	Length m				
Parallel to Access Road			3	1500			
Links to Turbine Bases			3	1500			
Total				3000	150	20	3
Cable Covering			Width m	Length m			
All cable runs			0.5	3000			
Total				1500		20000	1
Sand		Width m	Length m	Depth m	Total m3	per Load m3	Loads
Sand		0.5	3000	0.225	337.5	14	24
Total Cabling HGV Movements						33	

97659 Lower Cairny Wind Farm							
Abnormal Load Movements		Number	Per Base	Total	per Load	Loads	
Turbines		2					
Blades			3	6	2		3
Bolting Rings			1	2	2		1
Tower Sections			3	6	1		6
Nacelle			1	2	1		2
Hub			1	2	2		1
Total Abnormal Loads							13
Police Escorts	Per Load	2					26
Assembly Cranes - two loads Crawler Crane, one load Pilot Crane							3
Mobilisation							
Machinery Requirements for Track Laying							
Excavators							2
Drilling Rigs							1
Dumpers (40t)							2
Rollers							1
Assume 1 HGV per machine							6
Compound Offices, Storage, Generators, Toilets and Septic Tank							
3 diesel storage units (1 load)							1
3 diesel generator units (1 load)							1
2 offices, 1 store and 1 canteen (1 per load)							4
2 toilets and 1 septic tank (one load)							1
Total loads							7
Total HGV Movements Mobilisation							13
Commissioning and Demobilisation							
Removal of all above							13
Substation & Operations compound building							
(Estimates based on experience elsewhere)							
Blocks							5
Slates							3
Foundations							4
Internal Fit out, Windows and Doors							4
Transformer							1
Substation and Building Loads							17