

# 5 Landscape and Visual

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# 5 Landscape and Visual

## 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section of the EIA Report provides an assessment of the effects on landscape resources and visual amenity that would be likely to result from the construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. As mitigation is embedded into the design, all effects are residual.
- 5.1.2 The LVIA chapter has been prepared by a Chartered Landscape Architect at Hermitage Environmental Planning and Landscape Architecture Limited (Hepla), and has been peer reviewed by another Chartered Landscape Architect. Both have over 20 years of professional experience in undertaking landscape and visual impact assessment.
- 5.1.3 The chapter describes: the baseline landscape and visual conditions currently existing within the Proposed Development site and within the surrounding study area; the likely significant effects on the landscape and visual resource; the mitigation measures included to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset adverse effects; and the likely residual effects after these measures have been employed. The assessment is based on a potential ‘worst case’ scenario and the parameters that have defined this are set out in the methodology.
- 5.1.4 The LVIA concentrates on the key landscape and visual issues identified during the scoping stage and in conjunction with Shetland Island Council (SIC) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in relation to:
- landscape effects – both physical changes to constituent elements of the landscape fabric, and how changes in the character and qualities of the landscape and designated areas are perceived by people, as a result of the Proposed Development; and
  - visual effects – changes to views or visual amenity, as experienced by people, from key viewpoints, the surrounding sea, settlements, roads, footpaths and cycle routes, as a result of the Proposed Development.
- 5.1.5 Due to the proximity of the Proposed Development to the coastal edges of the northern islands of Shetland, the LVIA also considers effects on coastlines and seascapes. References to landscape effects used in this chapter also refer to effects on coastlines and seascapes.
- 5.1.6 The location of the Proposed Development and the extent of the application boundary is shown in **Figure 1.1** and **1.2a-e**. This is also detailed in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development).

### ***LVIA Contents***

- 5.1.7 The LVIA is organised into the following main sections, with additional written data also included in appendices, as described below:
- Introduction;
  - Project Description;
    - a description of the aspects of the Proposed Development with the potential to influence landscape and visual amenity within the study area;
  - Design Optimisation and Mitigation Measures;
    - a description of how the layout and design has responded to potential landscape and visual effects over the duration of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and reference to the embedded mitigation measures incorporated at the design stage, aimed at avoiding, reducing or minimising potentially adverse landscape and visual effects;

- Policy
  - a review of policy context relevant to landscape and visual matters;
- Consultation;
  - a summary of the consultation completed to agree the scope of the assessment and how matters raised during the consultation process have been addressed;
- Methodology;
  - an explanation of how the LVIA has been carried out, with reference to recommended methodologies and guidelines;
- Existing Environment;
  - a description of the existing landscape and visual amenity and receptors identified within the application area and the wider study areas;
- Assessment of Effects at the Construction Stage;
  - an assessment of the likely significant effects arising during the construction stage of the Proposed Development;
- Assessment of Residual Landscape and Visual Effects at the Operational Stage;
  - a detailed assessment of the likely significant residual effects arising from the operation of the Proposed Development on the landscape resources and the perception of landscape character and designated areas within the study area;
  - an assessment of likely significant residual effects on visual amenity arising from the operation of the Proposed Development, including an assessment from a range of viewpoints identified and agreed through consultation with SIC and SNH;
- Assessment of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects;
  - an assessment of the effects arising from the operation of the Proposed Development in conjunction with built/consented developments within the study area, and those at planning application stage. Note that this is incorporated into the main assessment under consideration of each receptor rather than being presented separately. This is because the built and consented sites are considered as part of the baseline;
- Assessment of Effects at Decommissioning and Post-Operational Stages;
  - an assessment of the likely significant effects arising during the decommissioning and restoration phase;
- Summary
  - a summary of the key landscape (including coastal) and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development, and conclusion on the significance of effects.

### ***Supporting Graphics***

- 5.1.8 The LVIA chapter should be read alongside the following plans, photographs and visualisations, which are included in Volume 3 and 4.
- 5.1.9 The baseline landscape and visual context is illustrated in: **Figure 5.1.1**, LVIA Study Area; **Figure 5.1.2**, Landscape Designations, Long Distance Walking Routes and National Cycle Routes; and **Figure 5.1.3**, Landscape / Coastal Character Areas. Viewpoint locations are shown in **Figure 5.1.4**.

- 5.1.10 The assessment of landscape and visual effects is supported by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps in **Figures 5.2.1 to 5.2.8**, and viewpoint photographs and wireframes/ photomontages in **Figures 5.3.1 a-d to 5.3.21 a-d**.
- 5.1.11 The cumulative assessment is accompanied by the cumulative site location plan in **Figure 5.4.1**, cumulative ZTVs in **Figures 5.5.1 to 5.5.2**, and cumulative wireframes in **Figures 5.6.1a-c to 5.6.4a-c**.

### ***Appendices***

- 5.1.12 This chapter is accompanied by **Appendices 5.1 to 5.6** in Volume 5. These provide greater detail and background information on:
- Appendix 5.1, LVIA Methodology;
  - Appendix 5.2, Landscape Character Areas;
  - Appendix 5.3, Coastal Character Areas;
  - Appendix 5.4, Inventory Listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes;
  - Appendix 5.5, Night-Time lighting Assessment; and
  - Appendix 5.6, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.

### ***Project Description***

- 5.1.13 The assessment covers the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of Proposed Development, as described in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development).
- 5.1.14 The main operational elements of the Proposed Development are summarised as follows:
- 29 wind turbines, which would have a maximum hub height of up to 130 m, a maximum rotor diameter of up to 160 m and a maximum overall tip height of up to 200 m;
  - turbine foundations;
  - transformers (one per turbine) which will be housed externally, next to the base of the turbine;
  - crane hardstandings;
  - 18.35 km of floating access track, 0.98 km of temporary floated and restored track, 1.75 km of excavated track and 0.523 km of the Dalsetter Hill Road (known locally as the Old Cullivoe Road) widened;
  - underground cables running alongside onsite tracks, where practicable;
  - drainage running alongside onsite tracks;
  - onsite power collection system, control building and substation, with internal storage and welfare rooms and external parking; and
  - one anemometry mast.
- 5.1.15 The temporary elements that would be present during the construction period are – due to their nature and short-term duration – much less likely to have significant landscape and visual effects in comparison to the operational elements of the Proposed Development. These construction elements and associated effects are set out in paragraph 5.6.2.
- 5.1.16 Construction of the Proposed Development will take approximately 24 months. The Proposed Development will be designed to operate for a period of 30 years, after which it will be decommissioned.

### **Reinstatement**

- 5.1.17 After construction has been completed, the crane hardstandings will remain in place for future maintenance, and the construction compounds and turbine laydown areas will be restored as close as possible to their original condition. All portacabins, machinery and equipment will be removed from the compounds prior to the Proposed Development becoming operational.
- 5.1.18 Site restoration will be programmed, managed and carried out to allow restoration of disturbed areas as early as possible and in a progressive manner. A restoration plan will be agreed with SIC prior to construction.

### **Design Optimisation**

- 5.1.19 The principal means of mitigation with regard to wind energy development is through the siting, design and layout of the turbines and ancillary infrastructure, in relation to landscape and visual receptors, as part of the design optimisation process. Consideration of landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development has been one of several technical aspects considered as part of the evolution of the design, which is described in detail in Chapter 2 (Site Selection and Design Iterations). The design of the turbine array has been developed to minimise effects on landscape and visual receptors, maintaining a relatively simple layout that responds to the prevailing undulating moorland. Mitigation of the operational effects of the project is effectively therefore embedded into the design. As such all the effects which are described are residual. Embedded mitigation also includes the adoption of three-bladed horizontal axis turbines with tubular steel towers, and the selection of a mid-grey paint finish in order to reduce the distance over which the turbines would be visible, particularly in dull and overcast conditions. The exact colour of the wind turbines would, however be agreed with SIC prior to the construction of the Proposed Development.

## **5.2 Legislation, Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance**

### **Legislation**

- 5.2.1 There is no legislation which is relevant to this assessment.

### **Planning Policy**

- 5.2.2 The policies and guidance relevant to the LVIA are set out below, and **Figure 5.1.2** identifies the location and extent of the landscape policy designations. At present the planning application for the Proposed Development, with regard to landscape and visual matters, would be considered under national and local policies and guidance, as reviewed below.

### **National Policy**

#### Scottish Planning Policy

- 5.2.3 Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) is the statement of the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land-use planning matters. The 2014 document provides the core principles, statutory guidance, planning policies, and expectations of the Scottish planning system.
- 5.2.4 With regard to Development Management, SPP highlights areas for consideration including the following matters which are relevant to landscape and visual effects:
- *“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;*
  - *impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including visual impact, residential amenity, noise and shadow flicker;*
  - *landscape and visual impacts, including effects on wild land;*

- *impacts on tourism and recreation.”*

### **Regional Policy**

#### The Shetland Local Development Plan, 2014

##### *Policy GP3, All Development: Layout and Design*

- 5.2.5 Policy GP3 states that: *“All new development should be sited and designed to respect the character and local distinctiveness of the site and its surroundings,”* and goes on to set out that *“development should make a positive contribution to”* a number of considerations, including, *“maintaining identity and character.”*

##### *Policy NH1, International and National Designations*

- 5.2.6 Policy NH1 states that: *“Development that affects a National Scenic Area (NSA)...will only be permitted where:*
- *It will not adversely affect the integrity of the area or the qualities or protected features for which it has been designated, or*
  - *Any such adverse effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.”*

##### *Policy NH4, Local Designations*

- 5.2.7 Policy NH4 states that: *“Development that affects a Local Nature Conservation Site or Local Landscape Area will only be permitted where:*
- *It will not adversely affect the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or*
  - *Any such effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits.”*

##### *Policy HE5, Gardens and Designed Landscapes*

- 5.2.8 Policy HE5 states that: *“Development affecting gardens and designed landscapes should protect, preserve and enhance such places and should not impact adversely upon their character, upon important views to, from and within them, or upon the site or setting of component features that contribute to their value.*

##### *RE1 Renewable Energy*

- 5.2.9 Policy RE1 confirms that *“The Council is committed to delivering renewable energy developments that contribute to the sustainable development of Shetland. Proposals for renewable energy developments will be supported where it can be demonstrated that there are no unacceptable impacts on people (benefits and disbenefits for communities and tourism and recreation interests) the natural and water environment, landscape, historic environment and the built environment and cultural heritage of Shetland.”* It further requires that *“All proposals for renewable energy developments will be assessed with consideration of their cumulative impacts.”*

### **Supplementary Planning Guidance**

- 5.2.10 In the preparation of this LVIA, the EIA team has been cognisant of the advice given in the following Shetland Island Council guidance documents:
- Supplementary Guidance Onshore Wind Energy (SIC, 2014, adopted February 2018); and
  - Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development in the Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009).

#### **Supplementary Guidance Onshore Wind Energy (2014, adopted February 2018)**

- 5.2.11 This Supplementary Guidance (SG) sets out detailed policy advice in order for development proposals to meet the requirements of The Shetland Local Development Plan (LDP). It provides a

spatial framework to guide the location of large wind farms, development guidelines for all locations, and will be used as a material consideration when dealing with applications for development.

5.2.12 The site is located within the zone identified as Stage 2 – Areas of Significant Protection, due to the presence of Class 1 and 2 Carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats. The guidance states that these areas *“have a recognised sensitivity to large scale wind energy developments and as such are afforded significant protection due to their national or international natural heritage value.”* In this zone *“Large Scale Wind energy developments may be permitted ... where it can be demonstrated that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation. Any potential development must demonstrate that the development criteria ... can be satisfactorily achieved.”*

5.2.13 Detailed local policies are set out in the SG that will form the basis of the decision-making process for proposed onshore wind energy developments, including the following specific policies relevant to landscape and visual effects:

#### DC1 Landscape and Visual Impact

5.2.14 The policy sets out the following specific requirements:

- *“All applications must be accompanied by an assessment of the likely impact of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity.”*
- *“Developers of very large, large and medium scale proposals will be required to show that their proposal conforms to the guidance provided in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on The Shetland Islands (Land Use Consultants for SIC, 2009) for each affected visual compartment. Proposals shall take account of the described landscape sensitivities of each landscape character area, site specific landscape and visual assessment and other guidance produced by statutory bodies. Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps must be included as recommended.”*
- *“In determining the sensitivity of the landscape developers should reference the ‘Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands’ 2009”*
- *“When assessing these impacts, the associated infrastructure, including tracks, power lines and ancillary development should be considered as well as the scale and pattern of the turbines.”*
- *“The developer will submit a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment that includes an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects... presented in line with guidance issued by Scottish Natural Heritage, the Landscape Institute and The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment.”*

#### DC2 Cumulative Impacts

5.2.15 Policy DC2 emphasises that: *“Developers will be expected to demonstrate that proposals will not result in unacceptable cumulative impacts. In addition to DC1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, developers will be asked to take into account a wide range of cumulative factors including the natural, historic and built environment, the visual amenity of residents and wider socio-economic impacts.”*

#### DC4 Impacts on Communities

5.2.16 Policy DC4 requires that: *“Development proposals must, in combination with existing and consented wind energy developments, assess the likely impact on communities and the long term impacts on amenity including...visual amenity”* amongst other topics.

DC7 Historic Environment

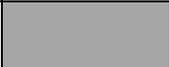
5.2.17 Policy DC7 requires that: *“Onshore wind energy development and/ or associated infrastructure proposals should not adversely affect the historic environment or its key features, including its setting and intervisibility between assets.”* In particular, *“Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes within Shetland are ...sensitive to new developments. As views both in and out of these are important characteristics their settings should be safeguarded from adverse impacts.”*

**Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on The Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009)**

5.2.18 This document is provided as a reference for developers in Supplementary Guidance Onshore Wind Energy (2014, adopted February 2018) to determine *“the sensitivity of the landscape”*. The report confirms that the *“study is intended to provide guidance relevant to landscape and visual matters on areas which are considered most appropriate for wind farm development on the Shetland Islands.”* It *“identifies indicative landscape capacities for wind farm development, alongside providing landscape related guidance for wind farm developments.”*

5.2.19 The site identified for the Proposed Development is located within the Yell Peatland Landscape Character Area, as defined originally by The Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Islands, 1998. The capacity study sets out the sensitivity of the area to a range of landscape sensitivity criteria, which is reproduced in the following table:

**Table 5.1 – Yell Peatlands, sensitivity to development (Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on The Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009)**

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
<b>Landform and Scale</b>			
	Extensive landscape with a gently rounded and undulating landform.		
<b>Land Cover</b>			
	Landcover is dominated by peatland and heather moorland. Inland lochs are frequent in North Yell.		
<b>Settlement and Man-made Influence</b>			
	The interior of this landscape is unsettled. Evident man-made interventions are roads (A968 and B9081), electricity transmission lines and peat cutting.		
<b>Movement</b>			
	Traffic on local roads brings localised movement to this landscape.		
<b>Skylines</b>			
	Skylines are simple and uninterrupted.		
<b>Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks</b>			
	Expansive views are afforded from this landscape across		

	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
	undulating peatlands and towards lower lying coastal areas, Yell Sound, Unst and Fetlar.		
Receptors	 <p>This landscape is observed by residents from adjacent settled lowlands, voes and sounds, users of the local road system and receptors on board ships and ferries.</p>		
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	 <p>Extensive landscape with a gently rounded and undulating landform.</p>		
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	 <p>Extensive landscape with a gently rounded and undulating landform.</p>		
Perceptual Aspects	 <p>Extensive landscape with a gently rounded and undulating landform.</p>		

5.2.20 The report defines the overall sensitivity to wind farm development as “Moderate” with the following commentary:

*“This landscape is of a large scale with undulating landform and evident manmade features. The elevated landform provides a simple backdrop to lower lying settled areas on the coastal fringe. The expansive nature of this landscape allows a sense of remoteness in its interior, which reduces with proximity to the A968 and settlements on the coastal fringe, lending a **moderate** degree of sensitivity.”*

5.2.21 The report also identifies visual compartments across Shetland at a broad scale, “based upon the location of key ridgelines, or watersheds, and their boundaries connect the main highpoints”, and as such “they approximate to the limits of intervisibility between landscapes.”

*“The identified visual compartments were analysed and refined, by overlaying designated landscapes, allowing comment to be made on the overall sensitivity of each compartment, based on the underlying sensitivity of the LCAs within each. To facilitate a more refined judgement to be presented, the following additional levels of overall sensitivity were introduced: moderate/ high and moderate/ low sensitivity.”*

5.2.22 The visual cells have been used in this assessment and are identified on **Figure 5.1.3**, Landscape/Coastal Character Areas Plan, with the following visual cells defined within the 40 km study area:

- A. East Unst and North Fetlar;
- B. East Bluemull Sound / West Unst;
- C. Mid and North Yell;
- D. Colgrave Sound;

- E. Yell Sound and South Yell;
- F. North Roe / Yell Sound;
- G. North Roe and Ronas Voe;
- H. Sullom Voe;
- I. St Magnus Bay;
- J. West Kame;
- K. Lunnasting, North Nesting, Whalsay and Out Skerries; and
- M. Mid Kame and Whiteness.

5.2.23 The Proposed Development falls into Visual Cell C: Mid and North Yell. The Capacity Study provides the following table, setting out the visual compartments potential to accommodate development:

**Table 5.2 – Visual Compartment C: Mid and North Yell, Overall Sensitivity to Development (Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on The Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009))**

<b>Overall Sensitivity:</b> Moderate	
This is an expansive landscape with a simple landform and relative absence of development. Scattered settlement and coastal crofting land give rise to areas of higher sensitivity. Expansive areas of upland moorland are of moderate sensitivity, lending an overall moderate sensitivity.	
<b>Indicative Landscape Capacity</b> This visual compartment is likely to have capacity to accommodate <b>several small wind farms or one medium-large wind farm.</b>	<b>Potentially Suitable Development Typology</b> The landscape extent, simple landform and lack of apparent scale references within this landscape provide scope for development of <b>Typologies A, B or C.</b>
<b>Landscape Guidance</b> Wind farm development could be accommodated within parts of this landscape; however, this should avoid effects on areas of sensitive vegetation. Wind farm developments should be sited away from the more sensitive coastal edge and areas designated for their natural heritage value, focusing on the A968 corridor.	

5.2.24 The Capacity Study refers to the following typologies:

**A. Single turbine to a small group** – a development of 1 turbine to a group of up to about 6 turbines, or with an installed capacity of less than 20MW

**B. Medium group** – a development of approximately 7-12 turbines, and/or with an installed capacity of up to 20MW

**C. Medium-large group** – a development of approximately 13-25 turbines, and/or with an installed capacity of 20-50MW

**D. Large-very large group** – a large development of approximately 25 or more turbines and/or an installed capacity in excess of 50MW

5.2.25 The Capacity Study, through a broad brush rather than site specific analysis of landscape character and visual sensitivity, indicates that the Visual Compartment described has a moderate sensitivity to development, with potential capacity for a medium to large wind farm. Following the detailed site specific analysis and fieldwork undertaken as part of this LVIA, it is considered that the proposed 29 turbine scheme presents an appropriate scale of development for the site, which departs only slightly from the recommendations of the strategic level Capacity Study.

## 5.3 Consultation

### Scoping

- 5.3.1 Initial LVIA scoping was carried out in July 2017 as part of the formal scoping exercise described in Chapter 4 (Approach to EIA). The information provided to consultees included a draft zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) and a list of six suggested viewpoints with grid coordinates, which it was proposed would be assessed within the LVIA. A plan was provided (Figure 2 of Appendix 4.1), which indicated the location of constructed, consented and proposed wind farms which would be included in the cumulative assessment. The formal consultee scoping responses are included in Appendix 4.3.
- 5.3.2 Further advice from the consultees was received following written correspondence in April 2018 and a subsequent face to face meeting with representatives of Shetland Island Council, (13th June 2018).
- 5.3.3 The scope of the assessment was discussed and further agreed with SIC and SNH through subsequent written correspondence. This confirmed detail of the viewpoints to be assessed within the LVIA and the other existing and proposed wind farms to be assessed in terms of cumulative effects.
- 5.3.4 The additional scoping (via email) correspondence with Statutory Consultees is summarised in the following table.

**Table 5.3 – Scoping Correspondence Relating to Landscape and Visual Matters**

Consultee	Comment	Response
Peter Dunmow, HEPLA 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	“Following on from your consultation response of 15th December 2017 to the Yell Wind Farm Scoping Report I am pleased to attach a letter setting out details of the detailed ZTV mapping which has been prepared to assist in reaching agreement on the proposed viewpoints.”	
Jonathan Swale, SNH 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	<p>“VP 8 (Knowes of Bratta), VP (12 North Neaps) and VP 13 (Stuis of Graveland) are all remote locations and unlikely to be regularly visited. We would not normally recommend such locations unless they are within a Wild Land Area as they have few visual receptors, although we note that the west of Yell has considerable relative wildness.</p> <p>We agree with the other proposed viewpoints; however the precise location of VP 15 needs to be clarified as the ZTV shows only limited visibility from the vicinity of North Roe, other than from the south side of Burra Voe.</p> <p>We recommend an additional VP at Breckon sands (HP 527 051) which is a popular beach (in Shetland terms), and a</p>	<p>VP 8 (Knowes of Bratta), VP (12 North Neaps) and VP 13 (Stuis of Graveland) removed as viewpoints.</p> <p>Viewpoint 15, now revised Viewpoint 19 has been carefully sited to capture the view from the southern side of the settlement at Burra Voe.</p> <p>A viewpoint at the Sands of Breckon has been included in the assessment, Viewpoint 5.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
	<p>couple more to explore the varying levels of visibility along the immediate eastern shoreline of NE Yell between Stonganess, through Cullivoe and up to Midbrake. These should also inform the Residential Amenity Assessment.</p> <p>With regard to the cumulative assessment, it would be prudent to include VPs on the A968 at HU 465 904) and at North/South Reafirth on the B9081 around HU 512 884 to assess sequential and cumulative sequential impacts.”</p>	<p>In addition to the viewpoint at Breckon Sands further viewpoints have been included along the north east coast of Yell at: Viewpoint 2. Fishermen’s Memorial, Gloup; Viewpoint 3. Haa of Houlland; and 4. Cullivoe.</p> <p>Viewpoint 15, on the B9081 has been included, illustrating the view from the Hill of Reafirth.</p>
<p>Peter Dunmow, HEPLA 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018</p>	<p>“To assist in understanding ‘sea to land’ views we have agreed to include the following land based viewpoints from headlands looking across the sea towards the site on Yell:</p> <p>Point of Fethaland on North Rona, grid reference 437898, 1195092;</p> <p>Nev of Stuis, north of Grimster, Yell, grid reference 446241, 1197237;</p> <p>Adjacent to Skate Stack, above Wood Wick, Unst, grid reference 457871, 1211789.</p> <p>Following a discussion on the night time viewpoints we have decided to substitute the viewpoint 17 at B9081 with Viewpoint 8 on the A698 near Basta. This decision was taken to include a closer viewpoint on a busier route. We also agreed that the viewpoints would be taken in daylight, at dusk and in darkness.”</p>	<p>Please refer to:</p> <p>Viewpoint 8, Nev of Stuis, <b>Figures 5.3.8a -8d</b></p> <p>Viewpoint 14, Wood Wick, Unst, <b>Figures 5.3.14a -14d</b></p> <p>Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, North Roe, <b>Figures 5.3.16a -16d</b></p> <p>Please refer to:</p> <p>Viewpoint 7, Cunnister, <b>Figures 5.7.2a -2e</b></p>
<p>Austin Taylor, SIC 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018</p>	<p>“I was in Yell today visiting other sites and took the opportunity to look again at the 3 VP sites we discussed yesterday. I’m still sure we were right to discount the VP at Grimister for the reasons we did. However, of the two either side of Basta Voe there is greater visibility of the development site from Cunnister than A698, near Basta and, additionally, there</p>	<p>To ensure comprehensive coverage was included around Basta Voe the following viewpoints were included: Viewpoint 6. A968 Colvister, <b>Figures 5.3.6a-d</b>; Viewpoint 7a. Cunnister, Basta Voe, <b>Figures 5.3.6a-d</b>; Viewpoint 7b. Cunnister, Basta Voe (night time view), <b>Figures 5.7.2a – e.</b></p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
	are static receptors there as well. So, please could we swap AVP10 for AVP9?"	
Peter Dunmow, HEPLA 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	<p>"Thank you for your email. That's no problem to change the position and I agree with your reasoning.</p> <p>One other point that I omitted from my previous email is that we discussed visibility from the inter-island ferries. We agreed that the viewpoint from Brough House on Fetlar was representative of the sea to land views experienced on the Yell-Unst-Fetlar ferry. With regard to the Mainland-Yell ferry there is little visibility indicated from the ferry itself however, it was acknowledged that there would be locations on the approach to the ferry terminal where there would be views towards the proposed wind farm on Yell. In this regard we also agreed to include a viewpoint from the A968 on the approach to the Toft ferry terminal as it crests the Hill of Swinster."</p>	<p>Please refer to the following figures:</p> <p>Viewpoint 12, Brough Lodge, Fetlar, <b>Figures 5.3.12a -12d.</b></p> <p>Viewpoint 21, A968 Hill of Swinster, <b>Figures 5.3.21a -21d.</b></p>
Sarah Fletcher, SNH 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	<p>As promised please find attached our draft scoping advice on lighting assessments. Please note that at this stage and from experience of considering other lighted wind farm schemes, we suggest that the assessment study area is not limited to 10km.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that the CAA have indicated that they will move straight to adopting proximity activated lighting as a form of mitigation that we would support (originally they were going to consult on this, but seem to have decided to accept this as mitigation). However to assess the worst case scenario we would still require a lighting assessment at this stage.</p>	The Night Time Lighting Assessment is included at Appendix 5.5 of the LVIA.
Sarah Fletcher, SNH 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	"The three viewpoints chosen for night time assessment are fine from SNH's perspective.	Please refer to the following Figures:

Consultee	Comment	Response
	<p>As a general point - it's important to ensure that this visual information is extrapolated to the wider assessment of night time visual effects. We are tending to find that assessments coming in only assess night time impacts for the viewpoints where only night time visuals are presented. When in reality these visualisations are 'representative' and need to be considered in this way."</p>	<p>Viewpoint 7b. Cunnister, Basta Voe (night time view), <b>Figures 5.7.2a – e.</b></p> <p>Viewpoint 3. Haa of Houlland (night time view), <b>Figures 5.7.1a – eii.</b></p> <p>Viewpoint 10. Westing (night time view), <b>Figures 5.7.3a – e.</b></p>
<p>Austin Taylor, SIC 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018</p>	<p>"I'm content with the final list of viewpoints and in principle with the selected night time viewpoints. I should echo Sarah's comment; I'm thinking that the hardest thing to do is to adequately and fairly represent the wind farm at night. "Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance v2.2", Scottish Natural Heritage (2017-Feb), Paragraph 174-on discusses this and suggests that "...a basic visualisation showing the existing view alongside an approximation of how the wind farm might look at night with aviation lighting may be useful." But that "This is only likely to be required in particular situations where the wind farm is likely to be regularly viewed at night (eg from a settlement, transport route) or where there is a particular sensitivity to lighting (eg in or near a Dark Sky Park or Wild Land Area). Not all viewpoints will need to be illustrated in this way." The area of the proposed wind farm is neither but, de facto, is an area of dark sky and an area of wild land (in spite of it not meeting the specific criteria for inclusion in the areas notified as such by SNH). Whilst I do not underestimate the difficulties in representing the night time views and how they may change, I should be grateful if you would consider the suggestions contained in SNH 2017-Feb and should be happy to discuss your ideas further as they develop."</p>	<p>Please refer to the Night Time Lighting Assessment, at Appendix 5.5, and the accompanying Figures:</p> <p>Viewpoint 3. Haa of Houlland (night time view), <b>Figures 5.7.1a – eii.</b></p> <p>Viewpoint 7b. Cunnister, Basta Voe (night time view), <b>Figures 5.7.2a – e.</b></p> <p>Viewpoint 10. Westing (night time view), <b>Figures 5.7.3a – e.</b></p>

## 5.4 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

5.4.1 The chapter is supported by Appendix 5.1, which contains a detailed description of the method of assessment.

### **Guidance**

5.4.2 The Landscape and Visual Assessment methodology follows good-practice guidance and advice on the assessment of the impacts of development on landscape and visual resources. A key source of guidance is the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition, 2013) (GLVIA 3). Other documents specific to photography and visualisation techniques, and cumulative impacts have also been referred to. These are listed in full in Appendix 5.1.

### **Overview of Methodology and Limitations**

5.4.3 The general approach to the LVIA includes the following key tasks:

- Desk study: A desk study was undertaken to define the baseline landscape and visual resource within the study area and identify the main users of the area, key viewpoints and key features. Refer to Appendix 5.1 for further details;
- Field survey: The landscape and visual resource identified through the Desk Study was then verified through field survey work. This allowed the assessor to gain a full appreciation of the relationship between the Proposed Development and the landscape. Refer to Appendix 5.1 for further details;
- Confirmation of scope, methodology and confirmation of the viewpoints to be included in the assessment was completed through correspondence with the Local Authority and SNH. Viewpoints are used as a proxy in order to understand effects across the study area, because it is not feasible to make an assessment of every visual receptor across an extensive area. This is standard practice.
- Baseline assessment of landscape and visual resources (consisting of desk study, field survey and reporting) reviews the existing landscape and visual resource of the study area in terms of its character, quality (i.e. the baseline condition) and establishes sensitivity of the resources/receptors. The baseline assessment forms the basis against which to assess the magnitude and significance of the predicted landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development;
- Layout and design optimisation, seeking to develop the design and layout of the Proposed Development based upon a combination of landscape and visual factors alongside, ecology, ornithology and peat constraints;
- Assessment of landscape and visual effects (construction, decommissioning and, in particular, residual operational effects). The assessment describes the changes in the character and quality of the landscape and visual resources that are expected to result from the Proposed Development. In assessing landscape impacts, the potential direct effects on the fabric of the landscape are considered, together with the effects on the perception of landscape character. The baseline landscape character assessment together with an assessment of the effects on each character area is included in the assessment, along with consideration of the extent of potential significant effects. The visual assessment includes a viewpoint analysis which has been carried out to identify and evaluate the effects on visual amenity arising from the Proposed Development at specific representative locations in the study area; and
- Assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects sets out the scope of work undertaken for the assessment of the potential landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed

Development in conjunction with other built/consented and application stage wind farm developments.

- Limitations of the standard approach include the use of agreed viewpoints as a proxy in order to understand effects across a wide area, and the limitations of the ZTV modelling, which can only be as accurate as the underlying data and the resolution at which this is available (50m Digital Terrain Model).

### **Study Area**

- 5.4.4 The Study Area for the LVIA is defined by a 40 km radius oval offset from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development, as shown in **Figure 5.1.1**. This extent of Study Area was determined as appropriate, given the height of the proposed wind turbines, and agreed in consultation with the relevant consultees.

### **Process of Assessing Residual Effects and their Significance**

- 5.4.5 Once the baseline situation in relation to landscape and visual receptors has been reviewed, this information is combined with an understanding of the proposed change or development that is to be introduced, in order to identify and describe the landscape and visual effects. As the mitigation is embedded as part of the design, potential effects and residual effects will be the same. The assessment process determines whether the level of an effect would be significant or not through methodical consideration of, firstly, the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors relative to changes as a result of the Proposed Development and, secondly, the magnitude of change that they would experience.
- 5.4.6 A more detailed description of the principles used in assigning sensitivity to change to landscape and visual receptors and evaluating the likely magnitude of change that would be experienced in relation to the Proposed Development, and in the subsequent consideration of sensitivity and magnitude in determining the level and overall significance of resultant effects, as informed by GLVIA 3, is set out in Appendix 5.1.

### **Level of Effects and Determination of Significance**

- 5.4.7 The level of any identified landscape or visual effect has been assessed as major, moderate, minor or no effect, or intermediate categories (eg major/moderate) between these. These categories have been determined by consideration of the sensitivity of landscape or visual receptor and the predicted magnitude of change that would be experienced as a result of the Proposed Development, as summarised above and described in detail in Appendix 5.1. The following matrix in **Table 5.6** is used as a guide to correlating sensitivity and magnitude to determine the level of predicted effects and their significance.

**Table 5.6 - Significance of Effects on Landscape and Visual Receptors**

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change			
	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
High	Major	Major to Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to Minor
Medium	Major to Moderate	Moderate	Moderate to Minor	Minor
Low	Moderate	Moderate to Minor	Minor	Minor to None
Negligible	Moderate to Minor	Minor	Minor to None	Minor to None

- 5.4.8 This assessment has been calibrated such that the threshold of significance is major to moderate. In this assessment, moderate level effects, and those below this level are not considered to be significant. Where, for the purpose of this assessment, the landscape or visual effect has been classified as major or major/moderate, this is considered to be a significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations. It is recognised that in some landscape and visual assessment methodologies a moderate level may be considered to be significant, but this is due to assessors calibrating their scale of effects differently, rather than because the threshold has been set high here. Essentially in an assessment where moderate is considered significant, the level of effect will be broadly similar to that which is described as major/moderate here. The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment require that each assessor develops and explains their methodology but do not set out a prescriptive approach. Variation between assessors is therefore common. It should be noted that effects are not always adverse and may also be beneficial, however this chapter assumes that the effect is adverse unless otherwise stated.
- 5.4.9 The table is not used as a prescriptive tool, and the methodology and analysis of effects at any particular location must make allowance for the exercise of professional judgement. Thus, in some instances, a particular parameter may be considered as having a determining effect on the analysis.

### **Supporting Graphics**

- 5.4.10 The LVIA is supported by a range of figures including viewpoint photography. These have been prepared in adherence to the principles presented in the Landscape Institute's Advice Note 01/11 Photography, Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and GLVIA3, and Scottish Natural Heritage, Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2, 2017.

## **5.5 Baseline Conditions**

- 5.5.1 This section provides a general description of the landscape and visual context of the Proposed Development site and Study Area. It briefly describes the historical and cultural context within the study area, identifying both sensitive locations and receptors to be addressed in the subsequent impact assessment. Much of this information is presented in greater detail in other relevant sections of this EIA Report (e.g. archaeology, socio-economics, etc.), but a review of the local area in relation to its amenity use and conservation designation status is briefly summarised below in order to provide a more accessible context for the baseline description of the landscape.

### ***The Application Site***

- 5.5.2 The site is located in the north-western sector of the island of Yell in Shetland. The site lies broadly between the hamlet of Gloup in the north of the island and the uninhabited properties at Dalsetter at the head of Basta Voe in the south. The site is set back from the surrounding coastline, positioned within the elevated interior moorland, and extends to 1,679 Ha. The site location is shown in **Figure 5.1.1**.
- 5.5.3 The Proposed Development site lies within the Peatland and Moorland Landscape Character Type (LCT), as defined and described in SNH's National Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), 1998. It exhibits the typical characteristics of this LCT, with a uniform moorland landcover, gently rounded landforms, a simple undulating profile and a relative absence of development. Topographical elevations range from 0m to c.112m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 5.5.4 The site is bounded to the west by the wild Atlantic coast, forming a narrow rocky edge of cliffs, geos and raised beaches, giving way to gently rising moorland beyond. In contrast, the more sheltered eastern coastline is relatively well settled, low lying and sandy in places, with a string of hamlets around the north eastern coast of Yell, connected by the B9082.
- 5.5.5 The northern coastline of Yell is deeply incised by the coastal inlet of Gloup Voe which penetrates south and continues inland as Omand's Dale and the Lee of Scola, draining a wider network of watercourses. Basta Voe similarly penetrates into the interior of northern Yell from the south and drains the Burn of Gossawater and Riven Burn. The interior moorland is dissected by further watercourses, with scattered lochans including Gossa Water to the south, Fugla Water and Grud Waters to the centre and Cullig Mires and Kussa Waters to the north, with numerous further unnamed waterbodies and burns.
- 5.5.6 The site is mainly used for sheep farming and there are no residential properties within the site boundary, although the remains of some farm buildings are present. The closest residential properties are at the hamlet of Sellafirth in the south, 147 m from the Proposed Development site boundary, and at Gloup 812 m north of the site boundary.

### ***General Characteristics and Features of the Study Area***

#### **Extent of the Study Area**

- 5.5.7 The study area encompasses the larger islands of Yell, Unst, Fetlar, the northern headland of Mainland at North Roe and the smaller islands of Hacosay, Whalsay and Housay amongst an archipelago of islets. Unst encloses the north eastern edge of the study area across the narrow Bluemull Sound, whilst to the west views are expansive across the northern reaches of Yell Sound and the Atlantic Ocean beyond.

#### **Topographical Features**

- 5.5.8 The northern sector of Yell is broadly rectangular. The land slopes from the elevated rocky coastline of western Yell to the lower lying sheltered, sandy coastline to the east. Between, lies an extensive area of undulating moorland, at between 30m to 112m AOD. The Knowes of Bratta (91m AOD) and Hill of Dalsetter (96m AOD) provide relative containment to the south west of the site. A loose ridgeline extends through the centre of north eastern Yell from the Hills of Bixter (76m AOD) above Sellafirth, through Sandwater Hill (81m AOD), Tittynans Hill (96m AOD), Moss Houll (117m AOD), and Scordaback (113m AOD) above Gloup in the north. This provides containment to the east. The Hill of Markamouth (100m AOD), Hill of Vigon (105m AOD) and the Hill of Bakkanalee (105m AOD) define a further arc of higher ground to the north west. These hills collectively frame the central area of undulating moorland of the site, where the Proposed Development is focussed.
- 5.5.9 These hills are penetrated by the deeply incised inlet of Gloup Voe which extends c.3km inland from the northern coast, and penetrates further 2km inland through Omand's Dale and the Lee of Scola. Similarly, the c.5km long inlet of Basta Voe continues inland along the Sneugie of Dalsetter and the Burn of Gossawater / Riven Burn. These features open an arc of visibility into the interior of northern Yell from the north and south. The higher land at Tonga Field and Flonga Field provides visual separation between Gloup Voe and Basta Voe.

5.5.10 The topography of the wider study area is complex, with interlocking voes, firths and headlands, and expansive areas of open water at Colgrave Sound/ Blue Mull Sound to the east and Yell Sound to the west, scattered with lower lying islands. However, the ridgeline on the west of Unst at Valla Field at c.200m AOD, the ridge line through southern Yell at Hill of Reafirth (186m AOD) / Hill of Arisdale (210m AOD) to the south, and the igneous intrusion of Ronas Hill (450m AOD) on North Rona to the south west, form important topographical features in the wider study area.

#### **Natural Heritage Features**

5.5.11 The Study Area covers a diverse range of landscapes, encompassing coastal, maritime, lowland and upland areas that support a variety of flora and fauna. In addition, the geology of the region provides a broad range of sites of geological and geomorphological interest. The key natural heritage attributes can be broadly summarised as follows:

- upland/moorland habitats;
- rock outcrops;
- areas of acid grassland;
- littoral habitats;
- intertidal habitats; and
- maritime habitats.

5.5.12 The non-porous nature of the metamorphosed sedimentary bedrock, the presence of boulder clay and the cool and damp climate have combined to create large expanses of peat. Much of the interior of Yell is covered in a peat blanket, often as much as 3m thick, cloaked in a mantle of heather moorland.

5.5.13 There is comparatively little farmland, with small pockets of improved and rough grassland concentrated along the coastal strip, around voes, inlets and along valleys, related to areas of boulder clay and other glacial drift deposits.

5.5.14 Tree cover is almost absent, although small pockets have established where grazing has been removed, and there is capacity for the establishment of woodland within the sheltered voes, with species such as willow, downy birch, hazel and alder.

5.5.15 Further details of the ecology/ geology/ hydrogeology of the Study Area are provided in Chapters 7 (Ecology and Nature Conservation), and Chapter 10 (Geology, Peat, Hydrology & Hydrogeology).

#### **Archaeological Features**

5.5.16 The study area has a long cultural history with evidence of man's actions extending over some 8000 years. Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement occurred in more favourable climatic conditions and as a result occupied diverse locations across the islands. Subsequent patterns of settlement and land use have exploited the most productive land on the lower slopes of sheltered coasts and voes, benefitting from access to both hills for grazing and the sea for fishing and transport.

5.5.17 There are 392 Scheduled Monuments in Shetland ranging from Bronze Age burial chambers to later medieval features. Locally the following are important Scheduled Monument sites:

- Burgi Geos, promontory fort: dating from the late prehistoric or iron age period, the structure is located in a remote cliff top position, along a narrow headland, jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean on the north west coast of Yell.
- Bayanne House, prehistoric settlement: remains of an Iron Age settlement, from between 500 BC and 500 AD, comprising two oval structures with faced walling, topped with turves and revetted with earth banks. The site is positioned above the rocky shoreline of Basta Voe in Sellafirth.

- Burra Ness Broch: set in a prominent position at the north east end of Burra Ness, projecting into Colgrave Sound.
- Papil: remains of chapel and burial ground situated at the north end of Papil Bay, in north east Yell.
- Burgi Geo Broch: 510m north east of North Brough, in north east Yell. Iron Age, built between 500 BC and AD 200. The monument lies about 20m above sea level, on a low peninsula that protrudes north above the Bay of Brough.
- St Olaf's Church, remains of church, Kirk Loch, north east Yell. The church, built in the fourteenth century served north Yell until c.1750.

5.5.18 A full Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Assessment is detailed in Chapter 9, but these features are noted here as visitors will be attracted to them, and are potential visual receptors.

#### **Built and other Heritage Features**

5.5.19 Other important sites which may attract visitors, and hence be of relevance as potential visual receptors, within the study area include:

- Brough Lodge, Fetlar: Grade A listed house built on the site of a former Haa house, at the western edge of Fetlar, by Arthur Nicolson a merchant in Lerwick. The grounds are included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
- Belmont House, Unst: Grade A listed Georgian Country House built in 1775 by landowner Thomas Mouat of Garth. The grounds are included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
- The Gloup Memorial, at Gloup, northern Yell, (1991) commemorates 58 men and six boats lost in a storm in 1881. Gloup was one of the most important haaf (fishing) stations in Shetland. Open boats (sixareens), each crewed by seven men, rowed to the offshore fishing grounds 30 to 40 miles away.

#### **Settlement**

5.5.20 The extensive moorland of Yell's interior and the exposed west coast is uninhabited. The climatic conditions place a strong emphasis for settlement in areas where the landform affords shelter from the high winds. The sheltered voes, sounds and inland valleys are, as a consequence, extremely important and these areas have been the focus for continued settlement and activity since the Iron Age. The adjoining productive low-lying land between the moorland hills and the sea, providing for grazing and fishing respectively.

5.5.21 Yell retains this traditional settlement pattern on the whole. In northern Yell, settlement is focussed in the sheltered inlet at Basta Voe and on the north west coast beside Blue Mull Sound. In Basta Voe there are small clusters of houses at Sellafirth, Cunnister, Colvister and the now abandoned properties at Dalsetter. The B9082 connects together the string of hamlets on the east coast of Yell beside the Bluemull Sound, comprising Gutcher, Cullivoe, Braeside, Greenbank, North and South Brough, Haa of Houlland, Midbrake, Breckon and Gloup.

5.5.22 Further south, the inlet at Whale Firth provides shelter to properties around Grimster on the west coast and Mid Yell Voe surrounded by hills shelters the larger settlement of Mid Yell on the east coast.

5.5.23 The western side of Unst faces north Yell across the Bluemull Sound and the comparative shelter of the sound, backed by the ridgeline at Valla Field has focussed an area of settlement at Burragarth, Underhoull and Westing.

5.5.24 Settlement on Fetlar, in the main, faces onto the Wick of Tresta on the sheltered southern side.

## **Roads**

- 5.5.25 Roads have replaced the sea as the main way of travel. In the recent past many of the smaller winding roads have been straightened and widened and the engineering works associated with road upgrades has had a considerable effect on the character of the landscape in places.
- 5.5.26 The main A698 road, crosses Yell from the ferry port at Ulsta in the south (receiving traffic from the mainland) and connects to the ferry port at Gutcher in the west (connecting to Unst). This road has been upgraded and forms an intrusive corridor through the wild landscape of the interior with modified vegetative cover related to the road's verges cuttings and embankments. The B9081 follows the southern and western coasts between Ulsta and Mid Yell and the B9082 connects Gutcher to the settlement on the north west coast of Yell. Minor spur roads connect to the smaller hamlets along the coastlines.
- 5.5.27 The Dalsetter Hill Road (known locally as the Old Cullivoe Road) is a gravelled track linking between Basta Voe and Cullivoe and the original route linking to the north east coast of Yell. It now gives access to the rough grazing and areas of peat cutting. There are no roads or tracks connecting to the north west of Yell.

## **Ferries**

- 5.5.28 Shetland Island Council ferry network includes the following routes in the Study Area:
- Toft on north east of the Mainland connecting across Yell Sound to Ulsta on the southern edge of Yell.
  - Gutcher on the east coast of Yell connects to both Belmont at the southern end of Unst and Hamars Ness on the north western coast of Fetlar.
  - In south of the study area ferries connect between Vidlin and Laxo on Mainland and Symbister on Whalsay and the Out Skerries.
- 5.5.29 The ferry terminals form small foci of activity and infrastructure, with associated night time lighting.

## **Cycle Network**

- 5.5.30 National Cycle Route 1 connects from Sumburgh in the south of the Mainland through to Skaw in north eastern Unst. On Yell, the route follows the main road, A968.

## **Walking Routes**

- 5.5.31 There are no national walking routes defined on Shetland however, there are extensive opportunities for walking throughout the islands. SIC has designated a core path network to provide a reasonable level of public access in the Shetland Core Paths Plan. Key routes on Yell relevant to the Proposed Development include the Old Cullivoe Road between Basta Voe and Cullivoe and a path loop along the northern coastline between Gloup, Midbrake and the Sands of Breckon.
- 5.5.32 A longer linear core path provides access around the south western and southern edges of Unst between Westing and Sand Wick bay.

## **Tourism and Recreation**

- 5.5.33 Whilst many tourists travel through Yell with Unst as their main destination, the empty moorland and wild coastline has an appeal for many. Opportunities for tourism and recreation within the study area focus on outdoor pursuits such as walking, sea kayaking, bird watching, and visiting the numerous archaeological sites. These activities tend to take place in the coastal areas enjoying the dramatic contrasts between sea, sky and land.
- 5.5.34 Informal visitor attractions on the island include the white Sands of Breckon in northern Yell, composed of crushed shells, and the Dale of Lumbister gorge an important area for bird watching on the west coast of Yell. The Shetland Gallery at Sellafirth is focus for tourist visits.

## **Baseline Landscape Resources**

- 5.5.35 The character and value of the Study Area has been reviewed in greater detail against existing landscape character assessments, landscape designations, and other relevant non-designated areas, as set out below.

### **Landscape Character Assessment**

#### SNH Review 93: A landscape assessment of the Shetland Isles, 1998

- 5.5.36 SNH has used a system of landscape character assessment to identify, describe, classify and map Shetland. Using accepted, systematic methods of landscape character assessment, the countryside has been subdivided into different Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each with a distinctive character based upon local patterns of geology, land form, land use, cultural and ecological features. These provide information that can be used to guide landscape change and provide a baseline against which to make judgements on the likely effects of the Proposed Development upon landscape character.

#### Shetland Coastal Character Assessment, NAFC Marine Centre (NAFC), 2016

- 5.5.37 In addition to the landscape character areas, the NAFC Marine Centre has prepared the Shetland Coastal Character Assessment, 2016 which provides a characterisation of the Shetland seascape. The coastal character assessment identifies and maps different Coastal Character Areas (CCAs).
- 5.5.38 These studies provide an assessment of the landscape and coastal character of the area, and consider the likely pressures and opportunities for change in the landscape / seascape. The LCAs and CCAs that fall within the 40km Study Area are illustrated in **Figure 5.1.4** and described in detail in **Appendix 5.2 and Appendix 5.3** respectively.
- 5.5.39 The Proposed Development site is situated within the Yell Peatland LCA identified in the Landscape assessment of the Shetland Isles. The broad Peatland and Moorland Landscape Type is described as follows:

*“Shetland has extensive lower lying areas of peatland and moorland. Interest in this subtle natural landscape is a result of the small-scale diversity in texture provided by standing water and exposed peat and rock. These areas represent a barren and wild landscape of muted colours which, depending on overall extent can have a distinctly monotonous, plain and unsettling or even threatening quality. Man’s intervention is largely confined to roads, electricity transmission lines, peat cutting and rough grazing. These areas are traditionally unsettled and unenclosed although man made elements such as roads are more common than in upland moorland areas, because of greater ease of access. The most extensive moorland area is the interior of the island of Yell. The different character areas are largely defined by landform and the particular nature of the vegetative cover.”*

- 5.5.40 Key characteristics of the Yell Peatlands LCA are described as follows:

*“Most of Yell is covered by extensive undulating peatland and heather moorland. The distinguishing landscape features of this area are its island location, extent and uniformity. The gently rounded and undulating landform allows expansive views over the island. In north Yell, more variety is provided by the number of inland lochs and voes.*

*The unenclosed extensive peatland and heather moorland of the Yell interior with their muted colours and relatively uniform texture contrast sharply with the richer colours and textures of the farmed and settled enclosed coastal lowlands. The interior is generally uninhabited. The most evident man-made interventions into this landscape are the roads, electricity transmission lines and peat cutting. Overall, this is a barren and wild natural landscape.”*

- 5.5.41 In undertaking the preliminary assessment and review of baseline material against the visibility mapping of the Proposed Development, and through subsequent fieldwork, it is considered that beyond a 20km radius from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development would be seen as a distant element in the landscape and that there would be only a limited influence on the characteristics, defining features and/or special qualities of the LCAs/ CCAs. Although there may be some effects on landscape character beyond a 20km radius from the site, these are not likely to be

significant and, in this regard, LCAs/ CCAs (as well as NSAs, WLAs and LLAs) beyond 20km of the Proposed Development site have not been assessed further. LCAs/ CCAs within a 20km radius of the Proposed Development have been reviewed in detail and provide an appropriate basis to describe the landscape / coastal character of the area surrounding the Proposed Development.

- 5.5.42 There are 27 LCAs/CCAs within the detailed 20km of the Proposed Development. Of these LCA D2, Crofting and Grazing Inland Valleys (around Loch of Cliff, Unst); LCA D3, Crofting and Grazing Isolated Valleys (Ungrista and Valsgarth, Unst); LCA D4, Peatland and Moorland Inland Valley; CCA 13 Bura Firth, Unst; CCA 15, East Fetlar; CCA 16, East Unst; CCA 17, East Yell; CCA 20, Skaw; and CCA25, Ronas will experience limited or no visibility to the Proposed Development and have therefore not been considered further in this assessment.
- 5.5.43 The following six LCAs will experience limited areas of potential visibility of the Proposed Development, however the effects of the Proposed Development on these LCAs will not be sufficient to give rise the significant effects and these areas are not included in the detailed reporting: LCA F2, Nucleated Settlements; LCA F4, Unst and Fetlar Crofting and Grassland; LCA F5, Scattered Settlement / Crofting Grazing Lands; LCA B2, Rounded Moorland Hills; LCA B3, Unst and Fetlar Rocky Heathland; and LCA, C2 North Roe.
- 5.5.44 The 12 remaining LCAs / CCAs have the potential to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development, as listed in **Table 5.7** and are included in the detailed assessment reporting in Section 5.7.

**Table 5.7 - Summary of LCAs / CCAs within 20km of the Proposed Development and within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

Landscape Character Area (LCA) / Coastal Character Area (CCA)	Source	Value	Susceptibility	Overall Sensitivity to Change Associated with the Proposed Development
A3 Ronas Hill	SNH Review 93, 1998	High	Medium	High
A4 Unst Uplands	SNH Review 93, 1998	High	High	High
B1 Yell Peatland	SNH Review 93, 1998	Medium	Medium/Low	Medium
E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands	SNH Review 93, 1998	High	Medium	High Medium (Bluemull Sound)
E4 Unst Coastal Crofting	SNH Review 93, 1998	Medium	Medium	Medium
G1 coastal Edge	SNH Review 93, 1998	Medium	High	High
CCA 12, Bluemull Sound	SCCA, NAFC 2016	Medium	Low	Medium
CCA 14, Colgrave Sound	SCCA, NAFC 2016	Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Character Area (LCA) / Coastal Character Area (CCA)	Source	Value	Susceptibility	Overall Sensitivity to Change Associated with the Proposed Development
CCA 18, Gloup Breckon	SCCA, NAFC 2016	Medium	High	High
CCA 19, Hermaness	SCCA, NAFC 2016	High / Medium	High	High
CCA 21, Whalefirth	SCCA, NAFC 2016	Medium	High	High
CCA 24, North Roe Coast	SCCA, NAFC 2016	High	High	High
CCA 27, Yell Sound	SCCA, NAFC 2016	High	High	High

#### Landscape Designations and Other Relevant Areas

5.5.45 Landscape designations are important in the context of the LVIA with regard to the effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape quality and visual amenity of designated areas within the Study Area.

5.5.46 Landscapes designated at the national scale include National Scenic Areas (NSA). Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) are designated by SIC. Wild Land Areas are also relevant considerations. The location and extent of these designations within the Study Area are shown in **Figure 5.1.2** and are described below.

#### National Scenic Areas

5.5.47 Within Scotland, National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are areas of outstanding scenic value in a national context. There are 40 designated NSAs in Scotland, which cover approximately 13% of Scotland, with policies for protecting the NSAs set out in development plans. In 2007 and 2008 SNH, working in partnership with Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), surveyed all NSAs to list the landscape qualities that make each special, as set out in The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas, Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.374, 2010.

5.5.48 Seven small areas of coastal landscape in Shetland have been identified as being of outstanding scenic interest. These designated areas that make-up the Shetland NSA comprise Shetland's scenic highlights and epitomise the range of coastal forms varying across the island group.

5.5.49 Four of the NSA sub units are located within the Study Area as follows:

- Hermaness;
- Fethaland;
- Eshaness; and
- Muckle Roe.

5.5.50 The identified special qualities are listed against the NSA Sub Units are as follows:

- *"The stunning variety of the extensive coastline - Hermaness/ Fethaland/ Eshaness/ Muckle Roe.*

- Coastal views both close and distant - **Eshaness/ Muckle Roe.**
- The hidden coasts - **Hermaness/ Fethaland/ Eshaness/ Muckle Roe.**
- The effects and co-existence of wind and shelter- **Hermaness/ Fethaland/ Eshaness/ Muckle Roe**
- A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity- **Hermaness/ Fethaland/ Eshaness/ Muckle Roe**
- The notable and memorable coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs- **Hermaness/ Fethaland/ Eshaness/ Muckle Roe**
- The distinctive cultural landmarks- **Hermaness/ Fethaland/ Eshaness**
- Northern light- **Hermaness/ Fethaland/ Eshaness/ Muckle Roe.”**

5.5.51 Eshaness NSA will experience no visibility of the Proposed Development whilst there will be very limited areas of distant visibility from the Muckle Roe NSA, in this regard effects will not be significant and they have not been considered further in this assessment.

5.5.52 The following additional notes relevant to the special qualities for the Hermaness and Fethaland NSAs are set out in the report:

*“The stunning variety of the extensive coastline*

- The **North Roe** peninsula further exhibits a range of skerries, stacks, islets, geos, caves, headlands and natural arches. Its complex geology lends the area distinctive variations in coastal landform and colour between Fugla Ness, Uyea Isle, Fethaland and the Ramna Stacks.
- At **Hermaness** on Unst, the coastal topography varies from the 175m high cliffs at the Neap, to the sandy beach and machair at the head of the narrow Burrafirth.

*The notable and memorable coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs*

- Where open to the full fury of the Atlantic Ocean, the sea has carved impressive cliffs, forming spectacular, towering, vertical scenery, varying greatly in colour according to the complex geology.
- The coast also contains many distinctive stacks, promontories and other features that form memorable images. Within the NSA these include:
  - The imposing cliffs of **Hermaness** itself, with its nesting seabirds.
  - Ramna Stacks, a group of skerries seen off the Point of **Fethaland.”**

Local Landscape Areas

5.5.53 In 2014 SIC published the Current Local Landscape Areas, as **draft** supplementary planning guidance. This document which follows on from the Shetland Local Landscape Designation Review, 2011, sets out for each of the proposed Local Landscape Areas (LLAs): the location and boundaries; the key characteristics; a designation statement; and provides development guidelines.

5.5.54 Eight locally designated LLAs are identified within the Study Area. Analysis of the ZTV indicates that there is very limited very long-distance visibility (in excess of 20km), or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from two of the LLAs that lie within or overlap with the Study Area, as follows:

- Nibon and Mangaster LLA: Intermittent areas of distant visibility from Green Ward, at distances over 33km away.
- Lunna Ness and Lunning LLA: Distant areas of visibility, from the Ward of Outrabister on Lunna Ness and the north west flanks of Lunning, beyond 30km away.

5.5.55 Owing to the very limited and long-distance nature of visibility, or absence of visibility, these LLAs will not be affected by the Proposed Development to a level that could result in significant effects; therefore, they have not been considered further as part of this assessment. The draft designation statements for the remaining six LLAs taken from Current Local Landscape Areas, 2014 are set out below.

*Proposed LLA1: Ronas Hill*

5.5.56 “Key characteristics:

- *A Shetland landmark, the highest point of the islands*
- *Distinctive red granite geology is clearly expressed*
- *Largely empty, uninhabited hills and moors*
- *Rocky plateau, steep cliffs, and other rugged features*

*Designation statement:*

*Ronas Hill is a Shetland landmark, distinctive as the highest point on the islands. It is widely visible from locations to the south and west, though its true size, relative to the generally low lying Shetland Islands, is only apparent closer to. The hill has a distinctive red colour derived from its granite geology. Ronas Hill is the main peak of a broad, rounded ridge running east to west, and topped by an expansive rocky plateau. This gravelly granite surface features unusual alpine plant communities, which occur here at exceptionally low altitudes. The plateau falls away to the north, giving way to lochans and blanket bog. The hill offers wide views across the whole of Shetland, and is a popular destination for hill-walkers visiting Shetland.”*

*Proposed LLA 13: Wick of Tresta*

5.5.57 “Key characteristics:

- *Secluded bay, a hidden gem;*
- *Bright, broad sandy beach;*
- *Enclosed by soft green cliffs and sinuous profile of Lamb Hoga;*

*Designation statement:*

*Hidden from views from off the island, the Wick of Tresta is at the heart of Fetlar. The wick is contained between the bulk of the island to the north, and enclosed by the tall headland of Lamb Hoga to the south.”*

*Proposed LLA 14: Colvadale and Muness*

5.5.58 “Key characteristics:

- *Deserted settlement and relict patterns ofcroft boundaries and empty buildings;*
- *Backed by the bare, gravelly moors derived from the underlying serpentinite geology;*
- *An empty landscape, no longer settled but with extensive time depth.*

5.5.59 *Designation statement:*

*This is an unusual landscape, characterised by attractive colours of rusty brown crags, rocky moorland and the bright sand at Sandwick and The Yei. The area is underlain by the distinctive geology of serpentinite rock, containing rare minerals, and producing a bare gravelly moorland, supporting a rare heathland flora.”*

*Proposed LLA 15: Haroldswick and Skaw*

5.5.60 “Key characteristics:

- *Part of the most northerly area of Shetland and Britain*

- *Highly visible military defence infrastructure, including active and disused elements*
- *Rugged, exposed northern coast, with sheltered sandy bays*
- *Rich geology visible at the surface*
- *Actively settled area undergoing redevelopment as former military uses decline and new uses are found*

5.5.61 *Designation statement:*

*This is a rugged landscape with a great variety in landform. The rocky headlands and dramatic folded cliffs of the north coast are topped with moorland, contrasting in its smoothness. This moorland continues upwards to a group of rounded hills, the highest being Saxa Vord."*

*Proposed LLA 16: Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound*

5.5.62 *"Key characteristics:*

- *Layers of historic settlement apparent in the many ruined churches and buildings and*
- *standing stones;*
- *Exposed northern coast with enclosed bays and narrow voes;*
- *Rolling coastal hills and the steeply rising slopes of Valla Field that enclose the area;*

5.5.63 *Designation statement:*

*This area represents diverse coast of prominent rocky headlands, sheltered bays and high and dramatic cliffs exposed to the open sea. The simple arrangement of hills, the water of the Bluemull Sound and open sea, and rocky coastal edge has high scenic qualities. The two coasts of Yell and Unst are intimately linked visually."*

*Proposed LLA 17: West Sandwick to Gloup Holm*

5.5.64 *"Key characteristics:*

- *Highly isolated, long stretches of coastline increasing in exposure to the north*
- *Impressive wide views of great depth across Yell Sound to the rocky hills of Northmavine;*
- *An area of limited active settlement, with isolated pockets of historic settlement rich in cultural heritage;*

*Designation statement:*

*This is a dramatic coastal landscape comprising the long, exposed and largely isolated western coast of Yell. Impressive wide views of great depth across Yell Sound to the low, smooth coast backed by the rocky hills of Northmavine."*

Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes

5.5.65 The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland is a list of nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) that meet the criteria published in Historic Scotland's 2011 publication, Scottish Historic Environment Policy.

5.5.66 Lunna House lies over 31km from the Proposed Development and the core of the designated landscape lies to the south of the island of Lunna and is screened from direct views, in this regard effects will not be significant and have not been considered further in this assessment.

5.5.67 There are two further Inventory sites found within the Study Area, as summarised in **Table 5.8** below. A description of the location and setting of each is set out in Appendix 5.4, and their locations relative to the application site are illustrated in **Figure 5.1.2**.

**Table 5.8 - Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes within the Study Area within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

<b>Inventory Garden / Designed Landscape</b>	<b>Approximate Distance and Direction from Yell Wind Farm (From the nearest turbine to the Edge of Each Inventory Garden)</b>
Belmont House	4.4km to the east
Brough Lodge	9.7km to the south east

5.5.68

**Table 5.9** below sets out a summary of the designated landscapes considered in the assessment and their sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

**Table 5.9 - Summary of Landscape Designations within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

<b>Landscape Designation</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Susceptibility</b>	<b>Overall Sensitivity to Change Associated with the Proposed Development</b>
Hermaness National Scenic Area	High	High	High
Fethaland National Scenic Area	High	High	High
Ronas Hill, Local Landscape Area	High/Medium	High	High/Medium
Wick of Tresta, Fetlar, Local Landscape Area	High/Medium	Medium	Medium
Colvadale and Muness, Unst, Local Landscape Area	High/Medium	Medium	Medium
Haroldswick and Skaw, Local Landscape Area	High/Medium	Medium	Medium
Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound, Local Landscape Area	High/Medium	High	High/Medium
West Sandwick to Gloop Holm, Yell, Local Landscape Area	High/Medium	High	High/Medium
Belmont House, Gardens and Designed Landscape	High	High	High
Brough Lodge, Gardens and Designed Landscape	High	High	High

### **Other Relevant Landscape Areas**

5.5.69 In addition to the above nationally and regionally important landscape designations, other areas that are not landscape designations but are of potential sensitivity to the Proposed Development have been taken into account.

#### Wild Land Areas

5.5.70 Wild Land is a concept introduced by SNH in their 2002 policy statement Wildness in Scotland's Countryside (Policy Statement 02/03). Published in 2014, National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) set out the Scottish Government's development priorities. NPF3:

- recognises wild land as a nationally important asset;
- indicates that Scotland's wildest landscapes merit strong protection.

5.5.71 SPP sets out how this should be achieved. This includes identifying Wild Land and how to safeguard it both in development plans and in spatial frameworks for onshore wind farms. SPP states that in the context of mapped environmental interests which include Wild Land that whilst recognising the need for significant protection, in these areas wind farms may be appropriate in some circumstances. Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.

5.5.72 Current Wild Land Areas are identified on Scottish Natural Heritage's new map of Wild Land, issued June 2014. These areas are not landscape designations, but are a consideration in the LVIA. There is one Wild Land Area within the Study Area, as listed below:

- Area 42: Ronas Hill and North Roe.

5.5.73 The extent of the Wild Land Area and its position relative to the Proposed Development site is illustrated in **Figure 5.1.3**. The closest edge is around 17.5km away from the nearest proposed turbine.

5.5.74 The LVIA has adopted the approach put forward by SNH in their Consultation Draft Guidance: Assessing impacts on Wild Land 2017. These areas are not landscape designations, but are a consideration in the LVIA. It is important to note that Wild Land assessment is an exacting process which acknowledges the very high sensitivity of Wild Land to the influence of development. The assessment of effects on the Ronas Hill and North Roe Wild Land area in this chapter reflects a balance of judgements in respect of the existing baseline qualities of the Wild Land areas and existing influences and the nature and extent of the influence of Proposed Development on the physical attributes and perceptual responses of the area.

### ***Baseline Visual Resources***

5.5.75 A key component of the assessment is the appraisal of effects from key locations within the Study Area. This assessment is undertaken through analysis of visibility mapping and confirmation of the extent of visibility, through the preparation of wireframes and use of these in the field in combination with photomontages.

#### **Settlements**

5.5.76 Settlement within the study area is located in sheltered locations close to sheltered voes, and sounds, typically comprising dispersed aggregations of crofts.

5.5.77 In accordance with the criteria outlined in the detailed methodology in Appendix 5.1, residential receptors, within settlements have a high susceptibility to change as views are experienced regularly for prolonged periods. Residential receptors are generally considered to have a high sensitivity overall to the Proposed Development.

5.5.78 The following table lists the principal areas of settlements into the zone of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development where significant effects may arise, as illustrated in **Figures 5.2.1-5.2.8**. The table identifies which settlements require further assessment.

**Table 5.10 - Review of visibility from Settlements within the Study Area**

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Distance and Direction to Proposed Development</b>	<b>Theoretical Visibility of the Proposal</b>
<b>Within 5km</b>		
<b>Southern Settlement Cluster</b>		
Sellafirth	c.1.8km to the north	Direct visibility. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
Cunnister	2.6km to the north	Direct visibility. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
<b>Eastern Settlement Cluster</b>		
Gutcher	c.3.5km to the north west	Visibility to parts of three blades in the context of views to Garth Wind Farm. <b>Not considered further, as there is no potential for significant effects.</b>
Cullivoe	c.2.3km to the west	Direct visibility to 6 hubs and parts of 8 blades from the centre of Cullivoe. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
Greenbank	c.2.9km to the west	Visibility to one hub and the blades of six turbines. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
Midfield/ Braeside	c.2.5km to the south west	Visibility to the upper blades of four turbines. <b>Not considered further, as there is no potential for significant effects.</b>
<b>North Eastern Settlement Cluster</b>		
Haa of Houlland	c.2.3km to the south west	Direct visibility to 15 hubs and parts of 12 blades from the elevated western edge of the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
South Brough/ North Brough	c.2.3km to the south west	Direct visibility to 12 hubs and parts of 10 blades from the elevated western edge of the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
Midbrake /Breckon	c.2.2km to the south west	Direct visibility to 18 hubs and parts of 8 blades from the southern edge of the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
<b>Northern Settlement Cluster</b>		
Gloup / The Kirks	c.1.2km to the south	Direct, close range visibility to 6 hubs and parts of 10 blades from the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>

Settlement	Distance and Direction to Proposed Development	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposal
<b>Belmont Settlement Cluster</b>		
Belmont, Unst	c.4.7km to the north west	Visibility to 17 hubs and parts of 10 blades from the western edge of the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
<b>Within 5 – 10km</b>		
<b>Westing Settlement Cluster</b>		
Underhoull/ Burragarth	c.6.4km to the west	Extensive visibility to the wind farm in middle distance views from the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
Westing	c.6.6km to the west	Extensive visibility to the wind farm in middle distance views from the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
<b>Mid Yell</b>		
Mid Yell	c.9.7km to the north	Distant visibility to the wind farm from the southern elevated edge of the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
<b>Beyond 15 km</b>		
Burra Voe	c.17.4km to the north east	Distant partial visibility to the wind farm from a small sector of the southern edge of the settlement. <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>

### Routes

5.5.79 Vehicular and non-vehicular route corridors within the Study Area, include roads, ferry routes, and designated cycle routes. The following table lists route corridors within 20km of the Proposed Development, falling within the zone of theoretical visibility, as illustrated in **Figures 5.2.1-5.2.8**. The table identifies which routes or parts of routes require further assessment.

**Table 5.11 - Review of visibility from Routes within the Study Area**

Route	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposal
<b>Roads</b>	
A968 (National Cycle Route 1)	Yell: Extensive visibility around Basta Voe and between Basta and Gutcher within c.5km; intermittent visibility through Mid Yell and south of West Sandwick - <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>

Route	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposal
	Unst: Extensive visibility from southern Unst between Belmont and the minor road to Westing - <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
A970	North Roe: Small area of visibility at Burra Voe - <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
B9081	Yell: Extensive visibility across the Hill of Reafirth around Basta Voe and between Basta and Gutcher within c.10km; localised visibility at Swarister - <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
B9082	Yell: Limited intermittent visibility of 7 turbine blades between Gutcher and Stonganess at the Burn of Garth, away from the direction of travel. <b>Not considered further, as there is no potential for significant effects.</b>
B9083	Yell: Frequent partial visibility between Stonganess and Gloup within 5km - <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>
B9088	Yell: Visibility to blade tips over c.7km between Uyeasound and the A968, away from the direction of travel. <b>Not considered further, as there is no potential for significant effects.</b>
Ferries	
Bluemull Sound/ Fetlar	A range of visibility on the Bluemull Sound crossing within c.3.5 – 4.7km. Extensive visibility on the crossings between Gutcher/Belmont and Harma Ness within c.3.5 - 9km. - <b>Included in the detailed assessment.</b>

### Viewpoint Selection

5.5.80 Viewpoints for the visual assessment were identified following production of the ZTV and a list of viewpoints were selected and confirmed with consultees as part of the scoping exercise, as summarised in Section 5.4. Additional viewpoints were added following correspondence between HEPLA, SIC and SNH during 2018. The types of receptors considered included the following:

- different LCAs/LCTs;
- designated and other sensitive landscapes, including Wild Land Areas;
- Inventory Listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes;
- settlements (towns and villages, as well as smaller groups of residential properties);
- roads (main and minor);
- footpaths and cycle routes including Core Paths and the National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes;
- marked/ popular viewpoints;
- other outdoor recreational resources (including frequently visited historical and archaeological sites); and
- visitor/ tourist facilities such as camp sites, hotels and visitor attractions.

5.5.81 In order to confirm the appropriateness of the viewpoint selection, field survey verification was carried out. This involved checking the viewpoint grid references on the ground, to ensure that there would be views of the Proposed Development from these locations.

5.5.82 The viewpoints taken forward for full assessment include 21 viewpoints that cover a range of representative landscape and visual receptors, distances from the Proposed Development, altitudes and directions, with the aim of achieving a reasonable distribution at compass points around the application site. Viewpoints were visited as part of the baseline visual assessment, and panoramic photographs of the existing views were taken. The final list of the 21 viewpoints, agreed through written correspondence with SIC and SNH, is shown in **Table 5.8**, and their locations are illustrated in **Figure 5.1.4**. Photographs of the existing views from these viewpoints are shown in **Figures 5.3.1 to 5.3.21**. The existing and predicted views of the Proposed Development are described in the assessment of effects in Section 5.7.

**Table 5.12. Selected Viewpoints**

No.	Viewpoint Location	Distance and Direction to Proposed Development	Receptors	Grid Ref.
1	Tittyans Hill, Yell	0.6km to the north west	Walkers and Crofters	452077, 1200014
2	Fishermen's Memorial, Gloup	1.2km to the south	Residents, Walkers, Visitors and Crofters	450642, 1204526
3	Haa of Houlland	2.3km to the south west	Residents	452972, 1204399
4	Cullivoe	2.5km to the west	Residents and Visitors	454022, 1203033
5	Sands of Breckon	2.7km to the south west	Visitors and Walkers	452742, 1205341
6	A968 / NCR 1 Colvister	3.3km to the north	Road Users and Cyclists	451109, 1196952
7	Cunnister, Basta Voe	3.6km north west	Residents	452370, 1197640
8	Nev of Stuis, Yell	4.2km to the north east	Walkers	446317, 1197331
9	Belmont Lodge, Unst	4.7km to the west	Visitors	456488, 1200934
10	Westing, Unst	6.7km to the south west	Residents	457180, 1206109
11	Grimster, Whale Firth, Yell	7.4km to the north east	Residents	446787, 1193284

No.	Viewpoint Location	Distance and Direction to Proposed Development	Receptors	Grid Ref.
12	Brough Lodge Fetlar	10.0km to the north west	Visitors	458059, 1192659
13	A968 NCR1, Mid Yell	10.3km to the north	Road Users and Cyclists	446431, 1190356
14	Wood Wick, Unst	11.0km to the south west	Walkers	458032, 1211716
15	B9081, Hill of Reafirth	11.9km to the north	Road Users	451204, 1188319
16	Point of Fethaland, North Roe	12.5km to the north east	Walkers	437888, 1195114
17	Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe	14.7km to the north east	Walkers	437804, 1191161
18	Hermaness Hill	17.3km to the south west	Walkers	460635, 1217655
19	Settlement at Burra Voe, A970, North Roe	17.4km to the north east	Residents and Road Users	436736, 1188328
20	Ronas Hill	25.2km to the north east	Walkers	430565, 1183449
21	A968 / NCR1 Hill of Swinster	27.7km to the north	Road Users and Cyclists	444634, 1772972

### ***Other Baseline Built/ Consented Wind Farms***

- 5.5.83 At the time of writing, there were three commercial-scale wind farm developments within the 40km radius Study Area that were operational/ under construction/ consented. As these wind farms are either already part of the current landscape and visual baseline resource or will become part of the predicted baseline conditions in the near future, they have been considered as an integral part of the baseline within the main assessment of landscape and visual effects in Section 5.7. Sometimes it may appropriate to include smaller non – commercial schemes. In the context of the Proposed Development, it was appropriate to confine the assessment to larger commercial schemes in the absence of significant smaller scale developments.
- 5.5.84 Other proposed wind farms within the Study Area that are within the planning system but yet to be determined have been considered separately when gauging the cumulative impact of the Proposed Development alongside proposed wind farm development that is presently the subject of a planning application, in the assessment of cumulative effects.

5.5.85 Details of the baseline built/ consented wind farms are given in **Table 5.13** below and their locations relative to the Proposed Development are illustrated in **Figure 5.4**. The cut-off date for the inclusion of new schemes in the cumulative assessment was the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. A ZTV plan showing the existing visibility of the built and consented sites plus the Proposed Development is illustrated in **Figure 5.5.1**.

**Table 5.13 - Built and Consented Commercial-Scale Wind Farms within the 40km Study Area**

Wind Farm	Developer	Stage	Distance and Direction from Yell	Number of Wind Turbines	Blade Tip Height
Garth	North Yell Development Council	Operational	1.9km to the south east	5	67m
Beaw Field	Peel Energy	Consented	16.9km to the south	17	145m
Viking	Viking Energy	Consented and in planning for a tip height extension	38.0km to the south	103	145m

## 5.6 Residual Effects

5.6.1 The assessment of landscape and visual effects follows the methodology presented in Appendix 5.1 and is based on the project description outlined in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development). This section reports on landscape and visual effects during construction/decommissioning phases and also separately during the operational phase.

### ***Assessment of Landscape and Visual Effects at the Construction Stage***

5.6.2 The construction phase of the Proposed Development is expected to last approximately 24 months. During this phase, the following activities and elements have the potential to affect the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area:

- construction of new site access tracks and watercourse crossings;
- areas of local widening including the Old Cullivoe Road;
- excavation of borrow pits (the Proposed Development includes nine borrow pit search areas);
- excavations for underground cables and turbine foundations;
- formation of temporary construction compounds and fencing;
- machinery and material storage;
- plant and vehicle movements;
- short-term use of tall cranes;
- local vegetation trimming/ clearance;
- construction of substation;
- HGV and abnormal load deliveries to site and vehicle movements onsite;

- construction site lighting in winter months;
  - construction of the turbine foundations and erection of the turbines; and
  - reinstatement work, including removal of temporary accommodation.
- 5.6.3 The location and management of these features will be carefully considered to minimise effects on the landscape resource and visual receptors.
- 5.6.4 All ground disturbance on the Proposed Development site will be restricted as far as practicable to the borrow pits, construction compounds, access tracks and new watercourse crossings, hardstanding areas, turbine foundations, routes for underground cables, and the substation. The location of these elements is shown in **Figure 1.2a-e**. Whilst there may be some substantial local magnitudes of change, physical disturbance will be limited to a relatively small proportion of the overall application site, defined in detail in Chapter 3, with the excavations for turbine foundations, cable trenches, etc. being reinstated on completion of the works and therefore being temporary in duration. Appendix 7.7 and 10.3 provide further details on the peat management and habitat restoration.
- 5.6.5 Restoration of replanted areas, such as re-vegetation of track verges could take several years to establish. Restoration will be pro-active, using proven restoration techniques, to ensure no construction-related erosion features appear along the access tracks. During re-growth, areas of repaired sward will have a different appearance to surrounding undisturbed areas but, over time, the species balance will change and plants typical of undisturbed areas will become established.
- 5.6.6 The turbines will be erected over a relatively short period and the appearance of the construction crane(s) in views of the application site will therefore be of short duration.
- 5.6.7 Measures that have been or will be taken to mitigate landscape and visual effects during construction include:
- layout design to minimise land take;
  - layout design to minimise moorland and other vegetation removal;
  - protection of existing landscape features within the Proposed Development boundary;
  - control of after-dark construction lighting to minimise effects on sensitive views;
  - maintenance of tidy and contained construction compounds and laydown area; and
  - the spreading of overburden and reseeding and planting on areas to be restored as soon as possible after sections of work are complete.
- 5.6.8 Within 1-2km of the Proposed Development, there will be a range of mainly localised effects arising during the construction phase. These will vary from negligible to minor, through to potentially more substantial magnitudes of change, for example with regard to visibility of tall cranes or construction lighting during winter months. However, all of these will be temporary effects that will be relatively short-term in duration, and therefore it is not considered that the construction phase of the Proposed Development would have significantly greater effects upon the landscape resource and visual amenity than the operational phase and no further assessment has been undertaken.

### ***Assessment of Residual Landscape Effects at the Operational Stage***

- 5.6.9 Identification of residual effects has been undertaken following a review of the visibility mapping provided in **Figures 5.2.1 to 5.2.8** and a review of the visualisations provided in **Figures 5.3.1 to 5.3.21**. This is in addition to field work assessment, and the use of computer-generated visualisations in order to inform the judgements made by the Landscape Architects undertaking the assessment.

### Assessment of Effects on the Landscape Resource

- 5.6.10 This section comprises the assessment of the residual effects on the landscape resource arising from the Proposed Development during the operational period. The effects are residual because they take into account the layout and design optimisation and mitigation measures discussed in Section 5.2 and in Chapter 2 (Site Selection and Design Evolution).
- 5.6.11 Landscape character and designated areas can be affected physically by a wind farm development. This will normally occur where it lies within and causes changes to the fabric of the landscape through the introduction of new features or the removal of existing ones (although off-site physical changes from, for example, widening of access roads at a distance from the site to allow construction traffic, can also less commonly occur). In general, however, changes to the landscape from wind farm development mainly occur in relation to how the existing character and designated areas are perceived, through people's visual experience of them being affected. These changes in perception of character, quality or value can affect both the areas and designated landscapes that a wind farm may lie within, as well as those surrounding it, within the Study Area.

### Duration and Reversibility of Landscape Effects

- 5.6.12 The effects will continue for the permitted life of the Proposed Development, which is expected to be set at 30 years. Following this time period, in the absence of a renewed planning permission, the turbines will be removed, and the landscape reinstated – with the majority of the proposed changes being fully reversible upon de-commissioning. The duration and reversibility of landscape effects will be the same with regard to all landscape receptors. This has been taken into account in determining the magnitude of change that would be experienced by each landscape receptor, and has therefore not been explicitly re-stated with regard to each individual landscape receptor below, to avoid repetition.
- 5.6.13 Any landscape effects that may remain after decommissioning and reinstatement are considered further below, with regard to landscape fabric, character and designations respectively.

### Assessment of Effects on Landscape Fabric

- 5.6.14 The extent of the Proposed Development site is shown in **Figure 1.1**. The baseline assessment identified a mosaic of grass and heather moorland as the context for the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development site comprises landscape features commonly found within the local Study Area, and is focussed on an area of gently undulating moorland set between Gloup Voe/Omand's Dale in the north and Basta Voe to the south. The expansive open moorland flows across the gently undulating terrain set between elevations of between 30 to 112m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The interior moorland is heavily dissected by further watercourses, with scattered lochans. The turbines have been proposed, set back from the settled southern, eastern and northern edges of Yell and set within the contained internal moorland as a loose cluster, between the low hills. The description of the Proposed Development and estimated land take of the Proposed Development components are provided in Chapter 3 (The Proposed Development) and Chapter 7 (Ecology and Nature Conservation).
- 5.6.15 Within the Proposed Development site, the turbines and associated infrastructure will lead to the physical loss of discrete areas of moorland through the creation of access tracks, bridges, turbine foundations, crane hardstandings, construction compounds, formation of borrow pits and the erection of the substation. The works will lead to the loss of a very small proportion of the landscape features within the Proposed Development site.
- 5.6.16 The total extent of works will not significantly affect the majority of the existing moorland within the Proposed Development site. Where elements are lost through temporary construction activity such as borrow pits and construction compounds, these will be subject to restoration and will recover during the operational life span of the Proposed Development. Further reinstatement activity would follow when the wind farm is decommissioned.
- 5.6.17 There will be a **Moderate to Substantial** magnitude of change to the fabric of the landscape (the moorland vegetation and peatland in the location of the proposed tracks, turbines and other infrastructure) at operational stage of the Proposed Development on the site, which is of Medium

sensitivity. Therefore, there will be a **Major/Moderate** level of effect, which is considered to be **Significant**. **Table 5.16:** LCA: B1, Yell Peatlands LCA provides further information and assessment of the effects on the landscape character of the host landscape, within which the Proposed Development is proposed.

### **Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Designations**

- 5.6.18 People's perceptions of the effects of a wind farm on landscape character and designated or other relevant landscape areas are closely related to the potential extent and nature of visibility of the turbines and ancillary infrastructure. An overview of the nature of the visibility of the wind turbines (the components most likely to be visible) within the Study Area is therefore provided below.

#### General Appraisal of Visibility

- 5.6.19 The potential visual influence of wind turbines is closely related to a range of parameters, the most important of which is distance. It is considered that within 20km, turbines with a blade tip height of 200m will be a clearly visible element in the landscape. Although they may not necessarily be intrusive or prominent, the turbines have the potential to be an important and/ or readily noticeable element in the landscape. Beyond 20km, the relative size of the turbines as a component in the wider landscape will be much reduced, becoming less distinct, and appearing as new elements set in the context of wider views.
- 5.6.20 **Figures 5.2.5 and 5.2.6** indicate the ZTV of the Proposed Development within a 20km radius, based on the visibility to the blade tip and hub height of the turbines respectively.
- 5.6.21 The turbine layout has been carefully sited, using the subtleties of the local terrain to reduce theoretical visibility where possible. The turbines to the eastern side of the cluster will be arranged to the west of the outer line of hills which run to the south and east of the site from Tittynans Hill, 96m AOD, in the south, through Moss Houll, 117m AOD, to the long plateau of Sandwater Hill, 105m AOD, and Scordaback, 117m AOD at its northern point. These hills will provide local containment to the cluster from the east, and define the boundary between edge of *Visual Compartment D, Colgrave Sound* (where the array's south eastern turbines are proposed) and *Visual Compartment B, Bluemull Sound/ West Unst*. The central cluster of turbines will be set well back into the interior of the Yell moorland, within *Visual Compartment C, Mid and North Yell*, around the tributaries of the Gossawater and Riven Burns, between Gossawater in the south and the plateau of the Hill of Vigon, 100m AOD, to the north. The northern group of turbines will be focussed around the Hill of Vigon and the Hill of Bankalee, also within *Visual Compartment C, Mid and North Yell*, around and well set back from the lower lying peninsula of North Neaps, which extends into the Atlantic to the north of Yell. This loose network of low hills defines the extent of the core visual footprint of the proposed turbines. The Blade Tip ZTV in **Figure 5.2** and the Hub Height ZTV in **Figure 5.3** clearly illustrate the core area of visibility within the interior of northern Yell and the intermittent visibility to the east, coincident with the scattered settlement along the western edge of the Bluemull Sound, within *Visual Compartment B, Bluemull Sound/ West Unst*.
- 5.6.22 Visibility will be picked up again to the east, on the south western edge of Unst, across the Bluemull Sound, *Visual Compartment B, Bluemull Sound/ West Unst*, c.4-5km from the nearest turbines, and encompassing the scattered settlement between Belmont, Burraygarth and Westing. The steep scarp slope of Valla Field and the hills above Uyeasound will curtail visibility across the lower lying eastern side of Unst, *Visual Compartment A East Unst and North Fetlar*, however, visibility will extend along the western coastline with areas of visibility at Hermaness, 200m AOD, the hills to south and west of Saxa Vord, 284m AOD in the north, and to the south around Clivocast to the western side of Uyea.
- 5.6.23 The small, low island of Hacosay lies at the entrance to Basta Voe, to the south, and visibility will extend across the island and also across the north western side of Fetlar, within *Visual Compartment D, Colgrave Sound*, over distances of 8 – 10km.
- 5.6.24 The elevated hills in central Yell, around the Camb, will create a break in visibility around Mid Yell, the southern extent of Whale Firth and Mid Yell Voe. Further south the terrain rises again through a network of interlocking hills and the curving ridgeline along Reafirth, 186m AOD, and Ward of Otterswick, 205m AOD, with visibility indicated along their northern flanks, substantially containing visibility with *Visual compartment C Mid and North Yell*, and effectively screening the settled

southern and south western edges of Yell, within *Visual Compartment F, North Roe/Yell Sound* and the southern extent of *Visual Compartment D, Colgrave Sound*.

- 5.6.25 Visibility will be picked up on the western side of Yell Sound, within *Visual Compartment F, North Roe/Yell Sound*, with the rising coastal edge of North Roe curtailing visibility to areas over the low-lying interior of North Roe, the northern part of *Visual Compartment G, North Roe and Ronas Voe*. The Proposed Development will be seen over a distance of c.13km, and similar views extend along North Roe’s eastern flank to the islands at the southern edge of Yell Sound around and including Sullom Voe, *Visual Compartment H, Sullom Voe*.
- 5.6.26 A band of visibility will be seen along the ridgeline at the Beorgs of Skelberry, 196m AOD, and across much of the north eastern flank of Ronas Hill, 450m AOD, the southern part of *Visual Compartment G, Ronas Hill*. The mass of Ronas Hill will screen visibility from Ronas Voe, Eshanness, Tingon, Uyea and Braewick, within *Visual Compartment I, St Magnus Bay*.
- 5.6.27 To the south the ridgeline to the north of Dales Voe, including the Hill of Swinster further intermittent views are indicated from Mainland, *Visual Compartment J, West Kame*. Distant visibility is indicated along the northern edges of Whalsay and the Out Skerries over c.30km distant, in *Visual Compartment K, Lunnasting, North Nesting, Whalsay and Out Skerries*.

**Assessment of Effects upon Landscape and Coastal Character Areas (LCAs/CCAs)**

- 5.6.28 This section assesses effects upon LCAs/ CCAs within 20km of the Proposed Development, as defined in the Shetland Isles Landscape Character Assessment, 1998 and the Shetland Coastal Character Assessment, 2016.
- 5.6.29 The location of the LCAs/ CCAs is presented in **Figure 5.1.3**. The ZTV of the Proposed Development overlaid with the LCAs/ CCAs is shown in **Figure 5.2.5** to a 20km limit, and to the 40km extent of the wider study area in **Figure 5.2.7**. The visibility indicated within these figures is derived from computer modelling and represents a bare-earth environment, i.e. the modelling does not include built development or localised changes in landform, all of which may screen the development, either in full or in part.
- 5.6.30 Beyond 20km, due to the effect of distance, the Proposed Development will be a less visible element in the landscape. It is not considered that the resulting changes to perception of landscape character could give rise to significant effects beyond 20km, and therefore no further assessment of LCAs/ CCAs beyond 20km has been made. This section describes the operational and cumulative effects on landscape and coastal character resulting from the Proposed Development, where potentially significant effects may occur, as set out in **Tables 5.14 – 5.26**.

**Table 5.14- Operational Effects on LCA: A3, Ronas Hill**

Location
<p>Ronas Hill is forms a distinct domed outline, rising up to 450m AOD, in the north of Mainland. The LCA lies to the south west of the Proposed Development, at over a distance of c.18km.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the LCA, currently weakly influences the existing baseline landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, over c.40km away to the north east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented developments will also influence the LCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, over 27km away to the west;</li> <li>▪ Viking.</li> </ul> <p>The following planning stage developments will also influence the LCA, if consented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viking (tip extension).</li> </ul>

### Determination of Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity is considered to be **High**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### *Value - High*

- Ronas Hill LLA covers much of the LCA, including its core area of visibility, and
- Ronas Hill and North Roe Wild Land Area covers much of the LCA, reflecting the area's remoteness and relative absence of man-made features. The restricted palette of landscape components and subtlety of landform enhance the sense of remoteness.

#### *Susceptibility to Change - Medium*

- Large-scale landscape, contrast between contained internal views and expansive coastal views, with few reference points or features against which to judge scale and perspective.
- Low moorland vegetation;
- Perceptual Qualities: sense of remoteness due to the lack road access and settlement.

### Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the Ronas Hill LCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Slight** on the north and north east-facing flanks and the summit of the LCA. Away from the summit, and the north and north eastern flanks the Proposed Development will be contained from views and the magnitude of change will be **Negligible or None**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### *Size or Scale*

The landscape of Ronas Hill is characterised by the expansive 360° views experienced from the exposed summit and flanks. From the largely barren open summit, the Proposed Development will be seen as a relatively distant large-scale man-made feature in the landscape. The immediate foreground infrastructure of the wind farm will be contained from view by the intervening local terrain. The prominence of the turbines will vary with light conditions, often receding against pale skies or haze but more visible on clear sunny days when the pale-grey structures will be seen within the network of hills on the local horizon. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the large-scale, expansive character of the landscape, and will form a visible distant addition to the landscape.

#### *Geographical Extent*

The ZTV indicates that there will be visibility of up to 29 turbines from the northern sector of the Ronas Hill LCA. There will be no visibility from the southern and eastern areas of the LCA. Viewpoint 20, Figure 5.3.20 is representative of the typical nature of views from within this LCA, at c.19.8km from the application site.

### Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

From the higher slopes and summit area of the LCA, the consented cumulative schemes would be visible over long distances in sequential views. Visibility from the northern flanks would be much reduced by terrain and significant cumulative effects would not arise.

<p>The addition of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will result in limited, and not significant cumulative sequential effects from the summit area of Ronas Hill. These effects will not influence the key characteristics of the LCA.</p> <p>The total cumulative effect of built, consented and planning stage schemes would not result in significant cumulative effects from this LCA, due to the effect of distance, and the considerable separation between the wind farms.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and locally <b>Slight</b> magnitude of change from the summit and northern flank of the LCA, are considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> local effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p> <p>Away from the summit and northern flank, the Proposed Development will be contained from views and the magnitude of change is negligible or none, resulting in, at most, a <b>Minor</b> effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.15 - Operational Effects on LCA: A4, Unst Uplands**

<p><b>Location</b></p>
<p>The landscape character area covers the three main areas of uplands on Unst, at Valla Field, Hermaness and Saxa Vord over distances of c.6.7km, 11.3km and 15km respectively.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the LCA, currently influences the existing baseline landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, over c.11km away to the south west.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented developments will also influence the LCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, over 22km away to the south west;</li> <li>▪ Viking.</li> </ul> <p>The following planning stage development will also weakly influence the LCA if consented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viking (tip extension).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hermaness NSA; and</li> <li>▪ Part of the Haroldswick and Skaw LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very large-scale landscape;</li> </ul>

- Long exposed mountain with steep sides;
- Low moorland vegetation; and
- Perceptual Qualities: sense of remoteness due to the lack road access and settlement. Open and exposed.

### Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the Unst Uplands LCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate** on the ridgeline encompassing Valla Field along the south western extent of Unst, reducing over distance to **Slight** at the Hermaness and Saxa Vord sub units of the LCA. Away from the summits and the south west facing flanks, the Proposed Development will be contained from views and the magnitude of change is **Negligible or None**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### *Size or Scale*

The landscapes of the Unst Uplands are characterised by expansive 360° views experienced from the exposed summits and flanks. From the ridgelines, the Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made feature in the landscape. The immediate foreground infrastructure of the wind farm will be contained from view by the intervening local terrain. The prominence of the turbines will vary with light conditions, often receding against pale skies or haze but more visible on clear sunny days, when the pale-grey structures will be seen against the north-south alignment of the islands to the west. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the large-scale, expansive character of the landscape, and will form a visible addition to the landscape in views west, introducing development to a new field of view and influencing the perception of scale in wider views.

#### *Geographical Extent*

The ZTV indicates that there will be visibility of all 29 turbines from the summit areas and western flanks of the Unst Uplands LCA. There will be no visibility from the northern and eastern areas of the LCA. Viewpoint 18, Figure 5.3.18 from Hermaness is representative of the typical nature of views from within this LCA, at c.17.2km from the application site.

### Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

From the west facing flanks and summit areas of the LCA, the consented cumulative schemes would be visible over varying distances in combined views with the Proposed Development lying to the south west. Visibility from the northern and eastern flanks would be curtailed by the terrain, and significant cumulative effects would not arise.

The addition of the proposal to the in-planning Viking (tip extension) application will result in very limited not significant cumulative sequential effects across the exposed ridges to the south of the LCA. These effects will not influence the key characteristics of the LCA.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes would not result in significant cumulative effects from this LCA, due to the effect of distance and the considerable separation between the wind farms.

### Significance of Effect

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and locally **Moderate** magnitude of change from the elevated south western sectors of the Valla Field sector of the LCA, are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** local effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

Effects on the more distant Hermaness and Saxa Vord components of the LCA will be locally **Slight** from the summit areas, with **Moderate** and **Not Significant** effects on the perception the landscape.

Away from the summit and southern flanks, the Proposed Development will be contained from views and the magnitude of change will be **Negligible or None**, resulting in, at most, a **Minor** effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

**Table 5.16 - LCA: B1, Yell Peatlands LCA (host landscape of the Proposed Development)**

Location
<p>The landscape character area covers the extensive moorland interior of Yell. The main part of the Proposed Development, including the turbine area, is located within the northern part of the Yell Peatlands LCA, which forms the largest LCA within the Study Area. This undulating moorland is a simple, empty landscape.</p> <p>The LCA has been the focus for an emerging pattern of wind farm development. The following wind farm development, which is located within the north eastern sector of the LCA, c.2km to the east of the Proposed Development, currently influences the existing baseline landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, over c.2km away to the east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development is also proposed within the Yell Peatlands LCA, and will influence the LCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, over 17km away to the south.</li> </ul> <p>The following planning stage development will also weakly influence the LCA if consented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viking (tip extension).</li> </ul>
Determination of Landscape Sensitivity
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>Medium</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included within small parts of the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – Medium/Low</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Medium-scale landscape, contrast between contained internal views and expansive coastal views, with few reference points or features against which to judge scale and perspective;</li> <li>▪ Low moorland vegetation; and</li> </ul>

- Perceptual Qualities: sense of remoteness due to the lack road access and settlement, contrasting with the presence and influence of existing wind turbines within the LCA.

### **Magnitude of Change**

The magnitude of change to the Yell Peatlands LCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be locally **Substantial** within a c.3km radius, where the turbines will be viewed over a short distance. Distance, angle of view and the presence of Garth Wind Farm will act together to reduce the magnitude of change to **Moderate** within a c.5km radius, and to **Slight** at distances over 5km beyond the Proposed Development. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### ***Size or Scale***

Within the open moorland landscape, the Proposed Development, where visible, will be seen as a large-scale man-made feature in the landscape, with the turbines and, to a lesser degree, the associated track and other infrastructure, contrasting with the existing colour, texture and movement of the existing moorland. The lower lying infrastructure elements of the wind farm will be often contained from view by local terrain. Viewpoint 1, Figure 5.3.1, from Tittyans Hill, is representative of the typical nature of views. The prominence of the turbines will vary with light conditions, often receding against pale skies or haze but more prominent on clear sunny days where the pale grey structures will be seen within the network of hills on the local horizon. The Proposed Development will fit within the gently undulating terrain and relatively scale-less character of the immediate landscape and will be viewed as a prominent addition to the landscape, seen in the context of the consented Garth Wind Farm in wider views.

#### ***Geographical Extent***

The ZTV indicates that there will be potential for visibility of all the proposed turbines across a large area of the northern Yell Peatlands LCA. Visibility will extend across the interior of the northern part of the Yell Peatlands, extending south as far the Hill of Reafirth. Visibility will reduce around the lower lying coastal edges, where the topography will assist in the screening of views looking inland.

Effects on the perceived qualities and characteristics of the LCA, beyond the application site boundary, will occur as a result of the Proposed Development. The extended undulating moorland will flow through and experience a relatively open relationship with the Proposed Development. Viewpoint 1, Figure 6.3.1, located c.550m from the Proposed Development, is representative of the typical nature of views from within this LCA. The existing wind farm at Garth, to the east, already has an influence on the character of the LCA, and further consented development at Beaw Field Wind Farm will reinforce this as a component of the prevailing landscape character. Yell Wind Farm will not alter the openness and expansiveness of the undulating moorland or substantially affect the majority of views from the interior out to the surrounding landscape and moorland, or the visual relationships to the surrounding islands. However, some views immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development will be interrupted by the large new vertical structures.

### **Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The built and consented cumulative schemes would be visible over varying distances in combined views with the Proposed Development, extending the influence of wind turbines across the landscape of north Yell.

The *addition* of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will result in Negligible and not significant cumulative combined effects from the exposed hill summits in mid Yell within the LCA. These effects will not influence the key characteristics of the LCA.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes would result in Moderate and Not Significant cumulative effects from this LCA due to the effect of distance and the position of Beaw Field Wind Farm, within a separate visual compartment.

#### Significance of Effect

The combination of the individual judgements of **Medium** sensitivity and a locally **Substantial** magnitude of change from within 3km of the Proposed Development, are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** local effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

Effects on the LCA within 3-5km will give rise to a **Moderate** magnitude of change, with **Moderate** and Not Significant effects on the perception the landscape.

Further south, the influence on the perception of landscape character will reduce beyond 5km to a **Slight** magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate/Minor** effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**. With distance and the topographic screening by the hills in mid and southern Yell, the influence of the wind farm will reduce and will not give rise to any further significant effects on this LCA.

**Table 5.17 - LCA: E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands**

Location
<p>The landscape character area extends along the coastal edge of parts of North Roe, Unst, Fetlar and Yell.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the LCA, currently weakly influences the existing baseline landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented developments will also weakly influence the LCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field;</li> <li>▪ Viking.</li> </ul> <p>The following planning stage development will also weakly influence the LCA if consented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viking (tip extension).</li> </ul>
Determination of Landscape Sensitivity
<p>The sensitivity is considered to vary between <b>Medium</b> within the context of Bluemull Sound and <b>High</b> elsewhere. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Part of the Point of Fethland National Scenic Area; and</li> <li>▪ Part of West Sandwick to Gloup Holm, Yell LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The landscape of the LCA is characterised by outward facing views to the coast across a farmed landscape, influenced by development including the local road system, electricity transmission lines and traditional crofting land uses;</li> <li>▪ Settled farmed landscape; and</li> <li>▪ Perceptual Qualities: the presence of settlement and crofting activity in this landscape reduces the sense of remoteness.</li> </ul>
Magnitude of Change
<p>The magnitude of change to the Coastal and Crofting Lands LCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be locally <b>Moderate</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially seen from northern Yell as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, and away from coastal views.</p> <p>There will be more distant coastal views back to Yell from northern Unst, North Roe and the smaller islands, with the Proposed Development seen as a large-scale new element, seen within the interior of Yell.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p>

<p>The ZTV indicates intermittent, partial visibility to the LCA in north Yell. There will be more direct visibility, often to all 29 turbines but over distances of greater than 10km, from the coastal edges of north Unst and North Roe, with further more confined areas of visibility from the LCA in Fetlar and Uyea.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p>
<p>The operational Garth Wind Farm would be visible in combined distant views, with the Proposed Development and the consented Beaw Field Wind Farm, seen in combined and sequential views to the south.</p> <p>The addition of the proposal to consented and in-planning Viking (tip extension) application will result in very limited not significant cumulative sequential effects. These effects will not influence the key characteristics of the LCA.</p> <p>The total cumulative effect of built, consented and planning stage schemes would not result in significant cumulative effects from this LCA, due to the effect of distance and the separation between the larger schemes.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of the <b>Medium</b> sensitivity of Bluemull Sound and <b>High</b> sensitivity elsewhere, and locally <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect from the northern coastal edges of Yell, and <b>Moderate</b> elsewhere, affecting the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p> <p>Beyond c.10km, the influence of the Proposed Development on views will be reduced and the magnitude of change will be <b>Slight</b>, resulting in, at most, a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.18: LCA: E4, Unst Coastal Crofting**

<p><b>Location</b></p>
<p>The landscape character area comprises areas of coastal crofting landscape on Unst and Fetlar.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the LCA, currently weakly influences the existing baseline landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also weakly influence the LCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field.</li> <li>▪ Viking.</li> </ul> <p>The following planning stage development will also weakly influence the LCA if consented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viking (tip extension).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</b></p>

The sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

**Value - Medium**

- The area is within the Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.

**Susceptibility to Change - Medium**

- The landscape of the LCA is characterised by outward facing views to the coast across a farmed landscape, influenced by a range of development including the local road system, electricity transmission lines, wind farm development and traditional crofting land uses;
- Settled farmed landscape; and
- Perceptual Qualities: the presence of settlement, crofting activity and other development within and influencing this landscape, which reduces the sense of remoteness.

**Magnitude of Change**

The magnitude of change to the Unst Coastal Crofting Lands LLA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

**Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen from the south western edge of Unst as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, extending across the skyline beyond the Bluemull Sound. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a prominent addition to the landscape, although the extent of change will be tempered by the presence of Garth Wind Farm and by the consented Beaw Fell Wind Farm when it is constructed.

**Geographical Extent**

The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development across much of the LCA. There will be direct visibility often to all 29 turbines, over distances of greater than 3km.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The operational Garth Wind Farm will be visible in combined distant views with the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will be seen in combined and sequential views with the consented Beaw Field scheme, to the south.

The *addition* of the proposal to the consented, and in-planning Viking (tip extension) application will result in very limited and not significant cumulative sequential effects. These effects will not influence the key characteristics of the LCA.

The *total* cumulative effect of built, consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Moderate but not significant cumulative effect on this LCA, due to the effect of distance, the diversity of the landscape and the separation between the larger schemes.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **Medium** sensitivity and locally **Moderate** magnitude of change from the LCA, are considered to result in a **Moderate** effect on the

perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

**Table 5.19 - LCA: G1, Coastal Edge**

<b>Location</b>
<p>This small-scale character area forms an irregular, gently sloping coastal landscape, fringing frequent voes and sounds.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the LCA, currently influences the existing baseline landscape character in some areas of LCA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also weakly influence parts of the LCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field;</li> <li>▪ Viking.</li> </ul> <p>The following planning stage development will also weakly influence the LCA if consented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viking (tip extension).</li> </ul>
<b>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</b>
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The LCA in north west Yell is within the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Views are coastal, backed by rising upland landscapes; and</li> <li>▪ Perceptual qualities: the limited modern development and significant historic interest in this landscape lend a higher degree of sensitivity.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The magnitude of change to the Coastal Edge LCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Slight</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>Local topography will curtail the influence of the Proposed Development on Yell, with partial visibility indicated. From Hascosay, the Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of varied coastal views and will form a noticeable addition to the landscape, although the influence will be tempered by the diversity of views.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The ZTV indicates partial theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development from the Coastal Edge in the north west of Yell. Direct views are indicated to the Proposed Development from</p>

Hascosay, over distances greater than 7km. More distant partial visibility is indicated from the south east of Yell.
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>The operational Garth Wind Farm would be visible in some combined distant views with the Proposed Development, and in sequential views to the consented Beaw Field scheme to the south.</p> <p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal to the in-planning Viking (tip extension) application will not result in any significant cumulative sequential effects.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built, consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on this LCA due to the effect of topography, the diversity of the landscape and the separation between the larger schemes.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and locally <b>Slight</b> magnitude of change from the LCA, are considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> effect on the perception of the landscape, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b> .

**Table 5.20 - Operational Effects on CCA 12: Bluemull Sound**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The Bluemull Sound Coastal Character Area encompasses the narrow sound between Yell and Unst.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the CCA, currently weakly influences the existing baseline landscape and coastal character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, over c.2km to the east.</li> </ul>
<b>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</b>
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>Medium</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The northern extent of the CCA is bounded Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA; and</li> <li>▪ The CCA is overlooked by Belmont House, Garden and Designed Landscape.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - Low</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bluemull Sound is a busy area with a variety of fishing and aquaculture vessels using Culli Voe, the ferries running between Unst and Yell and out to Fetlar, as well as marine renewable developments.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
The magnitude of change to the Bluemull Sound CCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Moderate</b> from the eastern sector of the CCA. The

<p>magnitude of change to the western coast of the CCA is <b>Negligible or None</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b><i>Size or Scale</i></b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, extending across the skyline beyond the Bluemull Sound. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a prominent addition to the setting of Bluemull Sound, although the extent of change will be tempered by the existing presence of Garth Wind Farm.</p> <p><b><i>Geographical Extent</i></b></p> <p>The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility to all 29 turbines of the Proposed Development across from the eastern extent of the CCA. There will be direct visibility, often over distances of greater than 5.5km. The western coastline of Bluemull Sound is sheltered from visibility.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p> <p>No further planning stage wind farms will be visible from the CCA. The addition of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.</p> <p>The total cumulative effect of built, consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this CCA, due to the diversity of landscape and coastal character, and the separation between the larger schemes.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p> <p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>Medium</b> sensitivity and locally <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change seen from the eastern extent of Bluemull Sound CCA, are considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> effect on the perception of coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p> <p>Away from west facing areas, views to the Proposed Development will be increasingly intermittent and the magnitude of change will be <b>Negligible or None</b>, resulting in, at most, a <b>Negligible</b> effect on the perception of coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.21 - Operational Effects on CCA 14: Colgrave Sound**

<p><b>Location</b></p> <p>The Colgrave Sound Coastal Character Area covers the area of water that sits between Yell, Unst and Fetlar.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the CCA, currently influences the existing baseline landscape and coastal character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, over c.3.5km away to the east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence parts of the CCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, over c.5km to the east.</li> </ul>
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### *Determination of Landscape Sensitivity*

The sensitivity is considered to be **Medium**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### **Value - Medium**

- The CCA is overlooked by Brough Lodge, Garden and Designed Landscape.

#### **Susceptibility to Change - Medium**

- There are a large number of aquaculture sites within the CCA. The ferry running between Unst and Yell and out to Fetlar influences area.

### **Magnitude of Change**

The magnitude of change to the Colgrave Sound CCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate** from Basta Voe, reducing to **Slight** elsewhere within the CCA. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### **Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, extending across the skyline to the west of Colgrave Sound. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a noticeable addition to the setting of Colgrave Sound.

#### **Geographical Extent**

The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility to all 29 turbines of the Proposed Development, across much of the CCA. There will be direct visibility, often over distances of greater than 7.5km beyond Basta Voe, within the main body of Colgrave Sound. The area to the south of Hascosay, Mid Yell Voe, Ay Wick, and Salt Wick will be sheltered from visibility.

### **Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

No further planning stage wind farms will be visible from the CCA. The addition of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.

The total cumulative effect of built, consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this LCA, due to the diversity of the landscape and coastal character and the separation between the larger schemes.

### **Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **Medium** sensitivity and locally **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Moderate** effect on the perception of coastal character to Basta Voe, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Elsewhere, distance and the variety of coastal influences will reduce the magnitude of change to **Slight**, resulting in a **Moderate/Minor** effect on the perception of the landscape and coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

**Table 5.22 - Operational Effects on CCA 18: Gloop - Breckon**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The Gloop-Breckon Coastal Character Area follows the northern coast of Yell from Birrier to Migga Ness.</p> <p>There is presently no influence from existing or consented wind farm development.</p>
<b>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</b>
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The CCA is bounded to the south east by the Gloop Voe to Bluemull Sound LLA and to the south west by the West Sandwick to Gloop Holm LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The coast is scenic, with remote wild qualities particularly to the west.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The magnitude of change to the Gloop – Breckon CCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Moderate</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, partially visible in views to the south. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a prominent element in views to the south.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The ZTV indicates partial visibility to the northern edge of the Proposed Development across much of the CCA. There will be direct visibility over distances greater than 2km.</p>
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>No further planning stage wind farms will be visible from the CCA. The addition of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on the perception of coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.23 - Operational Effects on CCA 19: Hermaness**

<i>Location</i>
<p>The Hermaness Coastal Character Area runs from Bluemull Sound to Herma Ness encompassing the exposed west coast of Unst.</p> <p>The following wind farm development, which is located beyond the CCA, currently influences the existing baseline landscape character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm to the south, over distances greater than 5km.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence parts of the CCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field to the south, over distances greater than 21.5km.</li> </ul>
<i>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</i>
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value – High / Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hermaness NSA covers the northern third of the CCA; and</li> <li>▪ The CCA is bounded to the east by the Gloup Voe to Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The coast is scenic, wild and remote with limited external influences.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The magnitude of change to the Hermaness CCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be locally <b>Moderate</b>, to the south from Wood Wick. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the south west. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a prominent element in views to the south west.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The ZTV indicates visibility to all 29 turbines of the Proposed Development across much of the southern extent of the CCA. There will be direct visibility over distances between 4km and 10km. To the north of Wood Wick, views will be substantially contained by the high cliffs. Viewpoint 14, Figure 6.3.14, located at Wood Wick c.11km from the Proposed Development, is representative of the typical nature of views from within this CCA.</p>
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>No further planning stage wind farms will be visible from the CCA. The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.</p>

The *total* cumulative effect of built, consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect to this CCA, due to the diversity of the landscape and coastal character and the separation between the larger schemes.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and **Moderate** magnitude of change in the southern sector of the CCA are considered to result in a locally **Major/Moderate** effect on the perception of coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

Elsewhere distance and topography will limit the magnitude of change to **Negligible**, resulting in a **Minor** effect on the perception of the landscape and coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

**Table 5.24 - Operational Effects on CCA 21: Whalefirth**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The Whalefirth Coastal Character Area encompasses the north west coast of Yell between Fogla Lee to Birrier, including Whale Firth.</p> <p>There are no built or consented wind farms influencing the existing baseline landscape character.</p>
<b>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</b>
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The CCA is bounded to the east by the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The coast is scenic, wild and remote with limited external influences; and</li> <li>▪ Whalefirth, by contrast, is sheltered with framed views which are sensitive to external influences.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The magnitude of change to the Whalefirth CCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be Moderate as seen from the Stuis of Graveland, reducing to Slight or Negligible elsewhere, where topography limits the extent of views. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, in views from the north and north east facing flank of the headland at the Stuis of Graveland. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a prominent element in views to the north.</p>

Further north along the coastline of the CCA, there will partial views to parts of the wind farm, seen within the interior of Yell to the east and away from the dramatic coastline. Where visible the turbines will appear as prominent elements.

**Geographical Extent**

The ZTV indicates visibility to all 29 turbines of the Proposed Development from the headland at the Stuis of Graveland. There will be direct visibility over distances greater than 4km. To the north of Whalefirth, the ZTV indicates partial visibility along most of the coastline. Viewpoint 8, Figure 6.3.8, located at the Nev of Stuis c.4.2km from the Proposed Development, is representative of the typical nature of views from the Stuis of Graveland.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

No further planning stage wind farms will be visible from the CCA. The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and **Moderate** magnitude of change locally across the Stuis of Graveland, and intermittently along the coastline, are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on the perception of coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

Elsewhere topography will limit the magnitude of change to **Slight** or **Negligible**, resulting in **Moderate/Minor** and **Minor** effects on the perception of the landscape and coastal character, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be **Not Significant**.

**Table 5.25 - Operational Effects on CCA 24: North Roe**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The North Roe Coast Character Area follows the northern coastline of Mainland. The study area extends from the Isle of Uyea in the west to the Point of Fethaland in the east.</p> <p>There are no built or consented wind farms influencing the existing baseline landscape character.</p>
<b>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</b>
<p>The sensitivity is considered to be <b>High</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The CCA is within the Point of Fethaland NSA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The coast is scenic, wild and remote with limited external influences.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>

The magnitude of change to the North Roe CCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Slight** from the exposed headland at the Point of Fethaland and the north western headland of North Roe, reducing to **Negligible** elsewhere where topography limits the extent of views. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

***Size or Scale***

The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, in views to the north from the exposed headlands of the CCA. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a visible new element in views to the north.

***Geographical Extent***

The ZTV indicates visibility to all 29 turbines of the Proposed Development from the headland at the northern tip of the point of Fethaland and from the north western edge of North Roe. There will be direct visibility over distances greater than 12.5km. Viewpoint 16, Figure 6.3.16 is located at the Point of Fethaland c.12.5km from the Proposed Development, at the exposed tip of the CCA. The CCA between the Point of Fethaland and North Hill will be visually sheltered by topography.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

No planning stage wind farms will be visible from the CCA. The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and **Slight** magnitude of change from the exposed headland at the Point of Fethaland and the north western headland of North Roe are considered to result in a **Moderate** effect on the perception of coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Elsewhere topography will limit the magnitude of change to **Negligible or None**, resulting in **Minor** or **No** effects on the perception of the landscape and coastal character, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be **Not Significant**.

**Table 5.26 - Operational Effects on CCA 24: Yell Sound**

<i>Location</i>
<p>The Yell Sound CCA extends between Northmavine, Delting and Yell, from the point of Fethaland (Northmavine) to Fogla-lee (Yell) to the North, Longa Tonga (Yell) around Orfasay and Samphrey to Mossbank (Delting) to the south-east and Skaw Taing (Delting) to Trumba (Gluss Isle).</p> <p>The following consented/application development will have a negligible influence on parts of the CCA once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viking/Viking (tip extension), to the south.</li> </ul>

### *Determination of Landscape Sensitivity*

The north western areas of the CCA which have more direct visibility to the Proposed Development are of **High** sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### **Value - High**

- The north western extent of the CCA is within the Point of Fethaland NSA; and
- The eastern extent of the CCA is within the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA.

#### **Susceptibility to Change - High**

- The northern coast is scenic and relatively remote.

### **Magnitude of Change**

The magnitude of change to the Yell Sound CCA caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Slight** from the north western extent of the CCA, reducing to **Negligible or None** elsewhere, where distance will reduce the influence of the Proposed development and topography will limit the extent of views. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### **Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the north east from the north western extent of the CCA. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, and will form a visible new element in views to the north.

#### **Geographical Extent**

The ZTV indicates visibility to all 29 turbines of the Proposed Development from the north western coastline of the CCA. There will be direct visibility over distances greater than 12.5km. Viewpoint 19, Figure 6.3.19, is located at Burra Voe c.14.5km from the Proposed Development, on the north western coastline of the CCA. The eastern coastline of the CCA is visually sheltered by topography.

### **Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The Viking (tip extension) application wind farm will be visible from the CCA. The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on this CCA, due to the limited visibility of other wind farm development.

### **Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and **Slight** magnitude of change from the north western sector of the CCA are considered to result in a **Moderate** effect on the perception of coastal character, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Elsewhere topography will limit the magnitude of change to **Negligible or None**, resulting in **Minor** or **No** effects on the perception of the landscape and coastal character, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be **Not Significant**.

Summary of Effects on Landscape and Coastal Character Areas

5.6.31 Table 5.27 lists and summarises effects on Landscape and Coastal Character Areas assessed above. It sets out their sensitivity to change, the magnitude of change that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development, and the level of resultant effects and their significance.

**Table 5.27 - Summary of Effects on Landscape Character Areas / Coastal Character Areas**

LCA / CCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
LCA A3 Ronas Hill	High	Slight	Moderate	Not Significant
LCA A4 Unst Uplands	High	Moderate locally from Valla Field Elsewhere no greater than Slight	Locally Major/Moderate Elsewhere no greater than Moderate	<b>Locally Significant from Valla Field</b> Elsewhere Not Significant
LCA B1 Yell Peatland	Medium	Substantial within 3km Moderate within 3-5km Elsewhere no greater than Slight	Major/Moderate within 3km Moderate within 3-5km Elsewhere no greater than Moderate/Minor	<b>Locally Significant within 3km</b> Elsewhere Not Significant
LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands	High Medium- (Bluemull Sound)	Locally Moderate from North Yell Elsewhere no greater than Slight	Major/Moderate Elsewhere no greater than Moderate	<b>Locally Significant from North Yell</b> Elsewhere Not Significant
LCA E4 Unst Coastal Crofting	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Not Significant
LCA G1 Coastal Edge	High	Slight	Moderate	Not Significant
CCA 12, Bluemull Sound	Medium	Locally Moderate from the eastern edge of Bluemull Sound	Moderate Elsewhere no greater than Minor	Not Significant

LCA / CCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
		Elsewhere Negligible on None		
CCA 14, Colgrave Sound	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Not Significant
CCA 18, Gloup Breckon	High	Moderate	Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
CCA 19, Hermaness	High	Locally Moderate south of Wood Wick Elsewhere Negligible	Major/Moderate locally south of Wood Wick Elsewhere Minor	<b>Locally Significant south of Wood Wick</b> Elsewhere Not Significant
CCA 21, Whalefirth	High	Moderate	Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
CCA 24, North Roe Coast	High	Locally Slight from the Point of Fethaland and North West Roe Elsewhere Negligible or None	Locally Moderate from the Point of Fethaland and North West Roe Elsewhere no greater then Minor	Not Significant
CCA 27, Yell Sound	High / Medium	Slight from the north western extent of the CCA Elsewhere Negligible or None	Moderate from the north western extent of the CCA Minor or None Elsewhere	Not Significant

#### Assessment of Effects on Designated Landscapes

5.6.32 This section considers the implication of the Proposed Development on designated and designed landscapes and Wild Land Areas falling within the Study Area. The designated landscapes and designed listed below have been considered in more detail, following the preliminary analysis of visibility of the Proposed Development, with some designated landscape having been scoped out of the assessment because of the absence of visibility(see Section 5.7.20).

- Hermaness National Scenic Area;
- Fethaland National Scenic Area;
- Ronas Hill Local Landscape Area;
- Wick of Tresta, Fetlar Local Landscape Area;
- Colvadale and Muness, Unst Local Landscape Area;

- Haroldswick and Skaw Local Landscape Area;
  - Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound Local Landscape Area;
  - West Sandwick to Gloup Holm, Yell, Local Landscape Area;
  - Belmont House, Garden and Designed Landscape; and
  - Brough Lodge Garden and Designed Landscape.
- 5.6.33 The analysis cross references to the assessment of landscape and coastal character, the assessment of visual effects and the cumulative assessment, and has given regard to the special qualities and features for which each receptor has been designated. Designated landscapes are shown on **Figure 5.1.2**, and are shown overlaid with the Blade Tip and Hub Height ZTV to 20km in **Figures 5.2.5 and 5.2.6** respectively.

#### Shetland NSA

5.6.34 The Shetland NSA includes seven designated areas. Of these the Fethaland and Hermaness sub-areas fall into the zone of theoretical visibility within 20km of the Proposed Development. The overall special qualities of the Shetland NSA are described within The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas, SNH commissioned report, 2010, as:

- *The stunning variety of the extensive coastline*
- *Coastal views both close and distant*
- *Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast*
- *The hidden coasts*
- *The effects and co-existence of wind and shelter*
- *A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity*
- *The notable and memorable coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs*
- *The distinctive cultural landmarks*
- *Northern light*

5.6.35 Some special qualities are generic to all the identified NSA areas, others are specific to each area within the NSA. For both Fethaland and Hermaness the feeling of being at the northern limits of the British Isles is marked, and within the Shetland archipelago these areas have a greater degree of remoteness.

#### *North Roe sub unit of the Shetland NSA*

5.6.36 The North Roe sub unit of the Shetland NSA includes the following specific special qualities, which are described within the SNH report:

- *“The North Roe peninsula further exhibits a range of skerries, stacks, islets, geos, caves, headlands and natural arches. Its complex geology lends the area distinctive variations in coastal landform and colour between Fugla Ness, Uyea Isle, Fethaland and the Ramna Stacks.”*

5.6.37 **Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8** illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating visibility over distances greater than 12.5km from north east facing slopes and hills along the northern coast of North Roe. Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, **Figure 5.3.16** and Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey, **Figure 5.3.17**, illustrate the nature of views from the headland and north east facing slopes within the NSA.

5.6.38 The NSA includes parts of LCA C2 North Roe Undulating Moorland with Lochs, LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, LCA G1 Coastal Edge LCA, CCA 24 North Roe Coast, and CCA 27 Yell Sound, which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs and CCAs finds no significant effects on these areas, and no potential significant

*total or additional* cumulative effects. This is due to the addition of the Proposed Development, as a noticeable new element, being seen within very diverse and expansive views over separation distances greater than 12.5km. A Major/Moderate (Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 16 and 17.

- 5.6.39 The special qualities of the sub-unit of the NSA will not be altered by the Proposed Development, with the key foreground and coastal views being well separated from influence of the Proposed Development. There will be some limited effects associated with the addition of the Proposed Development on the perception of the coastline seen in views to the north east, however these are not judged to affect the overall qualities and integrity of the Fethaland sub unit of the Shetland NSA.

*Hermaness sub unit of the Shetland NSA*

- 5.6.40 The Hermaness sub unit of the Shetland NSA includes the following specific special qualities, which are described within the SNH report:

- *“At Hermaness on Unst, the coastal topography varies from the 175m high cliffs at the Neap, to the sandy beach and machair at the head of the narrow Burrafirth.*
- *Cultural landmarks include the western edge of the Hermaness area which contains the northerly military installations in the British Isles at Saxa Vord.”*

- 5.6.41 **Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8** illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating visibility over distances greater than 16.5km from the headland at Tonga and over c.19km from Hermaness Hill, with limited areas of intermittent visibility between. Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill, **Figure 5.3.18** illustrates the nature of views from the headland within the NSA.

- 5.6.42 The sub unit of the NSA includes parts of LCA A4 Unst Uplands, LCA G1 Coastal Edge LCA, CCA 19 Hermaness, and CCA 13 Burrafirth, which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs and CCAs finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the NSA, and no potential significant *total or additional* cumulative effects. This is due to the Proposed Development being seen set back within the interior of Yell in the distance, in the context of the large scale landscape and the expansive coastal views, over separation distances greater than 16.5km. A Moderate (Not Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 18.

- 5.6.43 The special qualities of the sub-unit of the NSA will not be altered by the Proposed Development, with the large landscape scale of the foreground and the expansive coastal views beyond being well separated from the influence of the Proposed Development. There will be a limited influence on the perception of the coastal views to the north east, however these are not judged to affect the overall qualities and integrity of the Hermaness sub unit of the Shetland NSA.

Local Landscape Areas

- 5.6.44 Designation statements for Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) in Shetland are set out in the Shetland Islands Council Report, Local Landscape Designations Review (LLDR), 2011.

*Ronas Hill Local Landscape Area*

- 5.6.45 Ronas Hill LLA lies to the south west of the Proposed Development and overlaps with the Ronas Hill Wild Land Area. The LLA has been identified with the following Key characteristics:

- *“A Shetland landmark, the highest point of the islands;*
- *Distinctive red granite geology is clearly expressed;*
- *Largely empty, uninhabited hills and moors;*
- *Rocky plateau, steep cliffs, and other rugged features.*

- 5.6.46 Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8 illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating visibility over distances greater than 19km from the Beorgs of Collafirth and the steadily rising terrain on the north east facing flank of Ronas Hill. Viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, Figure 5.3.20 illustrates the nature of views from the summit area within the LLA.

- 5.6.47 The LLA includes parts of LCA A3 Ronas Hill, and LCA C2 North Roe, which fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCAs finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant *total* or *additional* cumulative effects. This is due to the Proposed Development being seen set back within the interior of Yell in the distance, within an intervening network of hills, and seen as minor component of expansive 360° views, over separation distances greater than 19km. A Major/Moderate (Significant) effect was found to affect receptors at Viewpoint 20.
- 5.6.48 The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development, due to the long separation distance to the Proposed Development, however it is noted that it will be seen within the backdrop of the coastal views to the north, with a limited influence on the perception of scale. However, these are not judged to affect the key characteristics and integrity of the Ronas Hill LLA.
- Wick of Tresta, Fetlar Local Landscape Area*
- 5.6.49 Wick of Tresta, Fetlar LLA lies within 20km to the south east of the Proposed Development, encompassing the landscape surrounding the sheltered bay of the Wick of Tresta. The LLA has been identified with the following Key characteristics:
- *“Secluded bay, a hidden gem;*
  - *Bright, broad sandy beach;*
  - *Enclosed by soft green cliffs and sinuous profile of Lamb Hoga;*
- 5.6.50 Hidden from views from beyond the island of Fetlar, the Wick of Tresta is at the heart of Fetlar. The wick is contained between the bulk of the island to the north, and enclosed by the tall headland of Lamb Hoga to the south.
- 5.6.51 **Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8** illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating very limited areas of intermittent visibility over distances greater than 12km from Gallow Hill and over 15km from the southern extent of Lamb Hoga. The northern extent of the LLA is largely contained from view.
- 5.6.52 The LLA includes parts of LCA B2 Rounded Moorland Hills, and LCA F4 Fetlar Crofting and Grassland. The northern flank of the Lamb Hoga ridgeline within the Rounded Moorland Hills LCA falls partially within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCA B2 finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant *total* or *additional* cumulative effects. This is due to the Proposed Development being seen set back within the interior of Yell in the distance, and the main focus of views being into the Wick of Tresta to the east.
- 5.6.53 The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be altered, due to the separation distance to the Proposed Development and the principal orientation of views to the west.
- Colvadale and Muness, Unst Local Landscape Area*
- 5.6.54 The Colvadale and Muness, Unst LLA lies within 20km of the Proposed Development to the south east of the study area. The LLA has been identified with the following Key characteristics:
- *“Deserted settlement and relict patterns of croft boundaries and empty buildings;*
  - *Backed by the bare, gravelly moors derived from the underlying serpentinite geology;*
  - *An empty landscape, no longer settled but with extensive time depth.”*
- 5.6.55 The LLA comprises an open coastal bay to the east of Unst, backed by rising moorland hills. Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8 illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating that visibility will be limited to the higher encircling hills to the west, over distances greater than 9.5km and from a small area to the south at Muness, over 11km away. The remainder of the LLA is contained from view.
- 5.6.56 The LLA includes parts of LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland, and LCA F4 Unst Crofting and Grassland. The eastern elevated edge of the LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland falls partially within the visual

influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCA B3 finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant *total* or *additional* cumulative effects. This is due to the Proposed Development being seen set back within the interior of Yell in the distance, the intervening terrain which fragments views, and the main focus of views being towards the bay to the east.

- 5.6.57 The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.  
*Haroldswick and Skaw, Local Landscape Area*
- 5.6.58 Haroldswick and Skaw LLA lies within 20km of the Proposed Development to the north east of the study area, encompassing the extensive hills and headlands between Harold's Wick in the south and Burra Firth to the north west, encompassing the Hill of Clibberwick and Saxa Vord. The LLA has been identified with the following Key characteristics:
- *"Part of the most northerly area of Shetland and Britain;*
  - *Highly visible military defence infrastructure, including active and disused elements;*
  - *Rugged, exposed northern coast, with sheltered sandy bays;*
  - *Rich geology visible at the surface;*
  - *Actively settled area undergoing redevelopment as former military uses decline and new uses are found."*
- 5.6.59 The LLA comprises an extensive area of hills and headlands and the north eastern extent of Unst. Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8 illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating a swathe of visibility across the western flank of Saxa Vord, Sooters Field and the Ward of Norwck, over distances greater than 15km, with a further small area of intermittent visibility from the Hill of Clibberswick. The remainder of the LLA is contained from view.
- 5.6.60 The LLA includes parts of LCA A4, Unst Uplands, LCA B3 Unst Rocky Heathland, LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting, LCA F4 Unst Crofting and Grassland and LCA G1, Coastal Edge. The western flanks of the hills in LCA A4 and LCA B3 fall within the visual influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment of effects on LCA B3 finds no significant effects on these areas within the area of the LLA, and no potential significant *total* or *additional* cumulative effects. This is due to the Proposed Development being seen set back within the interior of Yell in the distance to the south west, and the intervening terrain which fragments views from the Hill of Clibberwick. The main focus of views is predominantly to outer coastal edges and the intervening inlets at Burrafirth and Harold's Wick.
- 5.6.61 The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.  
*Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound Local Landscape Area*
- 5.6.62 Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA lies at the north extent of Yell and the eastern part of Unst encompassing the landscape surrounding the inlet at Gloup Voe, Bluemull Sound, and the indented coastline around Westing against the backdrop of the ridge of Valla Field. The LLA has been identified with the following Key characteristics:
- *"Layers of historic settlement apparent in the many ruined churches and buildings and standing stones;*
  - *Exposed northern coast with enclosed bays and narrow voes;*
  - *Rolling coastal hills and the steeply rising slopes of Valla Field that enclose the area.*
- 5.6.63 Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8 illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating intermittent visibility along the western side of Bluemull Sound around to Gloup Voe, and more direct open visibility to the eastern coastline of Unst around Westing. Whilst visibility is intermittent to the west, the Proposed Development is relatively close to the LLA, within 1-3km. Visibility across the Bluemull Sound from Unst is within 3km.

- 5.6.64 The LLA includes parts of LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting, LCA F4, Fetlar Crofting and Grassland and LCA F5, Scattered Settlement/Crofting and Grazing Lands. The assessment of effects on LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing lands identified locally significant effects along the northern area of the LCA between Breckon and Gloup. Moderate not significant *additional* and *total* cumulative effects were predicted on the LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting component of the LLA. This is due to the influence of the Proposed Development which will be seen as a large-scale new development within the interior of Yell. Whilst the Proposed Development will be seen well set back and away from coastal views, the scale of the turbines will have a strong influence on landscape scale, forming large contrasting elements, seen against the prevailing moorland backdrop.
- 5.6.65 The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be locally altered by the Proposed Development between Breckon and Gloup Voe, with a reduction in the scenic qualities of the LLA.
- West Sandwick to Gloup Holm Local Landscape Area*
- 5.6.66 West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA lies at the north western extent of Yell and along the western coastline of Yell, encompassing the wild Atlantic coastline. The LLA has been identified with the following Key characteristics:
- *“Highly isolated, long stretches of coastline increasing in exposure to the north;*
  - *Impressive wide views of great depth across Yell Sound to the rocky hills of Northmavine;*
  - *An area of limited active settlement, with isolated pockets of historic settlement rich in cultural heritage.”*
- 5.6.67 Figures 5.2.1 – 5.2.8 illustrate the extent of theoretical visibility to the Proposed Development, indicating intermittent visibility along the western coastline of Yell, within 1km at the closest point. The open headland at North Neaps indicates direct visibility to the Proposed Development. The headland at the Stuis of Graveland will have direct visibility along its eastern flank contrasting with little or no visibility along its western side.
- 5.6.68 The LLA includes parts of LCA B1 Yell Peatland, LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, and LCA G1, Coastal Edge. The assessment of effects on LCA B1, Yell Peatland and LCA E3, Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands, identified significant effects on the LLA along the coastal edge from North Neaps to Whale Firth. Moderate not significant *additional* and *total* cumulative effects were predicted on the LCA E4, Unst Coastal Crofting component of the LLA. This is due to the close proximity of the Proposed Development, which will be seen as a large-scale new development within the interior of Yell. Whilst the Proposed Development will be seen to be well set back and away from coastal views, the scale of the turbines will have a strong influence on landscape scale, forming large contrasting elements, seen against the prevailing moorland backdrop. The assessment of effects on LCA B1, LCA E3 and LCA G1 finds no potential significant *total* or *additional* cumulative effects.
- 5.6.69 The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be locally altered by the Proposed Development between North Neaps and Whale Firth, with a reduction in the scenic qualities of the LLA.
- Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- 5.6.70 The baseline assessment identified the presence of two Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) that will experience areas with direct visibility to the Proposed Development. The location of GDLs in relation to the Proposed Development is illustrated in **Figure 5.1.2**.
- 5.6.71 There are no physical effects on any of the GDLs identified within the study area. With regard to indirect effects on their perceived qualities, analysis of the ZTV indicates that there is theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from only two of the GDLs within the study area.
- 5.6.72 Effects on the Belmont House GDL and Brough Lodge GDL are assessed in more detail below.

**Table 5.28 - Operational Effects on Belmont House GDL**

Location
<p>Belmont House GDL is located on the south western edge of Unst, close to the Bluemull Sound Ferry Terminal, approximately 4.7km to the south east of the Proposed Development. The house sits just beneath a ridge and the principal orientation of the house is across the bay of the Wick of Belmont, to the south. There are also panoramic views to the wider setting including the Loch of Belmont to the west, and to the surrounding islands in wider views. The five turbines of Garth Wind Farm are seen across the distant ridgeline of Yell to the west.</p> <p>The GDL includes rectilinear walls and courtyard gardens although no planting survives and views are open to the surrounding grazing fields.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also weakly influence views from the GDL once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field.</li> </ul>
Determination of Landscape Sensitivity
<p>Belmont House is of <b>High</b> sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The value of the Belmont House GDL is considered to be High through designation;</li> <li>▪ The GDL is located within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive views.</li> <li>▪ Existing influence of wind farm development at Garth.</li> </ul>
Magnitude of Change
<p>The magnitude of change to the Belmont House GDL caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Moderate</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell, in views to the west. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, views to the existing Garth Wind Farm, and will form a new large-scale element in views to the west.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The photomontage in Viewpoint 9, Figure 5.3.9, indicates that there will be visibility to parts of all 29 turbines over a 33° angle of view, at 4.7km. Twelve of the turbines will be visible to hub height.</p>

Potential for Future Cumulative Effects
<p>The Viking (tip extension) application Wind Farm will not be visible from the GDL. The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Moderate cumulative effect on the GDL when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the west and in successive views to Beaw Field to the south.</p>
Significance of Effect
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on the GDL, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.29 - Operational Effects on Brough Lodge GDL**

Location
<p>Brough Lodge GDL is located on the western edge of Fetlar, on the Ness of Brough some 2km south of the Oddsta ferry terminal, approximately 10km to the north west of the Proposed Development. The lodge sits on the summit and west-facing slopes of a low hill. The site commands views across the Colgrave Sound to the island of Hascosay to the west, and inland to the east. The five turbines of Garth Wind Farm are seen as distant elements in views to the north.</p> <p>The GDL includes a paved terrace to the east and walled gardens to the west although no significant planting survives and views are open to the surrounding grazing fields.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence views from the GDL once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field.</li> </ul>
<i>Determination of Landscape Sensitivity</i>
<p>Brough Lodge is of <b>High</b> sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The value of Brough Lodge GDL is considered to be High through designation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change - Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive views;</li> <li>▪ Existing influence of wind farm development at Garth and consented development at Beaw Field.</li> </ul>
Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the Brough Lodge GDL caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

***Size or Scale***

The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the north west. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, views to the existing Garth Wind Farm and consented Beaw Field Wind Farm, and will form a new large-scale element in views to the north west.

***Geographical Extent***

The photomontage in Viewpoint 12, Figure 5.3.12, indicates that there will be visibility to all 29 turbines over a 16° angle of view, at 10km.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The application stage Viking (tip extension) Wind Farm will be partially visible as negligible or minor element in views. The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the GDL.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Moderate cumulative effect on the GDL when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the west and Beaw Field in successive views to the south.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on the GDL, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Wild Land**

5.6.73 The effects on Wild Land Areas have been examined in accordance with SNH’s Interim Draft Technical Guidance - Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas, January 2017, and set out below. The assessment has been undertaken with reference to Figure 5.1.2, which indicates the location of the Wild Land Areas within the Study Area. The findings of the assessment are set out below.

Ronas Hill and North Roe Wild Land Area

5.6.74 The Description of Wild Land Areas – 2017 published by SNH describes the area as:

*“One of 11 island Wild Land Areas (WLA) and covering the north western part of Northmavine in Shetland, this is the smallest (41 km<sup>2</sup>) and most northerly of all the WLAs. It extends from the sea loch of Ronas Voe in the south past Hevdadale Head in the north. One of 12 WLAs defined in part by the coast, access from the road is largely restricted to the east.”*

5.6.75 It lies over c.18km from the closest proposed turbine, to the south west, and comprises two LCAs, Ronas Hill (A3) and North Roe (C2).

5.6.76 The document sets out key attributes (main headings) and qualities (italics in brackets after each) which are summarised below as:

- A relatively small area of wild land that sits within an exposed wider composition of islands, sea, voes, bays and sounds (*sense of naturalness, awe inspiring*);

- A dramatic coastline with cliffs, islands, stacks, geos and beaches that convey a strong sense of naturalness (*sense of naturalness, arresting, high risk, sanctuary, views to human artefacts and contemporary land uses located outside the WLA which influence the perceived remoteness, naturalness and sanctuary*);
- An open coast to the west where the sea contributes strongly to the wild land qualities, in contrast to a more complex land and seascape viewed in other directions (*extensive, senses of awe and naturalness, rugged, arc of human artefacts and evidence of contemporary land uses located outside the WLA, sense of remoteness and sanctuary*);
- Rounded hills that are rugged and rock strewn at a local level, and highlight the natural processes of erosion and weathering (*rugged, physically challenging, sense of naturalness, sense of risk*);
- A remote interior of undulating moorland, peatland and lochs (*rugged, sense of naturalness, physically challenging, sense of remoteness and sanctuary, within the remote interior there are few human artefacts and little evidence of contemporary land use except .. where seen upon elevated ground in the distance*);
- Some key attractions for walkers, but few people within the remainder of the area and a strong sense of solitude (*sense of solitude*).

5.6.77 The landscape assessment found that the landscape character of the Ronas Hill LCA will not be significantly affected (see Table 5.14). Views from the north east facing slopes will be altered, with the Proposed Development being seen in the distance, some 18-19km away from the northern part of the WLA (North Roe), and 20-24km away from the more southerly part (Ronas Hill). Viewpoint 20 is a representative view (see Table 5.62), where effects are predicted to be Major/Moderate for walkers (which in the context of this assessment is considered to be a significant visual effect). Views of human artefacts and contemporary land uses are part of existing views from the WLA, and are noted in the text which describes the key attributes and qualities.

5.6.78 Of the attributes and qualities that are identified, the Proposed Development has the potential to affect one of the attributes, being *“the wider composition”*, essentially affecting part of the distant view to the north east. It will not affect the other physical and perceptual attributes, being the *“dramatic coastline”*, *“the open coast to the west”*, the *“rounded hills that are rugged and rock strewn at a local level”*, or the *“remote interior”*. It has potential to affect the *“sense of naturalness”* of the wider landscape setting, but also to fit with the existing characteristic of *“views to human artefacts and contemporary land uses located outside the WLA which influence the perceived remoteness, naturalness and sanctuary”*. It will not affect physical and perceptual qualities such as *“rugged”*, *“physically challenging”*, *“risk”*, *“sense of solitude”*.

5.6.79 The WLA is of **High** sensitivity. The magnitude of change will be **Slight** (noting that part of the wider composition of views will be altered at a distance in views looking to the north east), and that the sense of naturalness will be reduced to a degree when looking to distant views to the north east. However the prevailing and strong character of the WLA is not judged to be altered at this distance, and whilst some change to perceptual (rather than physical) attributes and qualities is noted, the reasons for classifying this area as Wild Land will not be compromised, and the level of change will not affect the WLA to the extent that it’s integrity would be reduced, either in whole or in part. The Proposed Development will be an additional distant feature in the existing *“arc of arc of human artefacts and evidence of contemporary land use located outside the WLA that influence its perceived extent as well as the sense of remoteness and sanctuary”* and the effect on the WLA will **not be significant**.

### ***Assessment of Residual Visual Resource Effects at the Operational Stage***

5.6.80 The following sections provide an assessment of the residual visual effects that would be likely to arise from the Proposed Development during the operational period. The effects are residual

because they take into account the layout and design optimisation and mitigation measures discussed in Sections 5.2 and 5.7 above and in Chapter 2 (Site Selection and Design Evolution).

5.6.81 The following assessment addresses effects on the visual amenity of people, through assessing:

- effects on settlements;
- effects on key transport routes; and
- effects on viewpoints.

**Assessment of Effects on Settlements**

5.6.82 The following section provides an assessment of the predicted effects on the visual amenity that would be experienced by residents of principal settlements within the Study Area. The assessment has been undertaken through field survey and the analysis of mapping ZTV and wireframe views, in order to confirm the likely nature of visibility.

5.6.83 In accordance with the criteria outlined in the detailed methodology in **Appendix 5.1**, residential receptors, within settlements in the Study Area, have a high susceptibility to change as views are experienced regularly for prolonged periods, and are generally considered to have a high sensitivity overall to the Proposed Development.

5.6.84 An indication of the predicted extents of visibility (both blade tip and hub height) across the settlements is provided within the visibility mapping in **Figures 5.2.1 to 5.2.8**. All ZTV drawings are based on bare-ground conditions, in accordance with current good practice as indicated in GLVIA 3. For those settlements where the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility, buildings and, to a small degree, vegetation are likely to provide a degree of containment between receptors and the Proposed Development. Buildings, localised topography and vegetation do not register on the ZTV and, therefore, views to the Proposed Development will tend to be more restricted and more intermittent than the ZTV indicates.

5.6.85 The settlements in the Study Area with potential views of the Proposed Development, as identified in Table 5.30, are assessed below.

**Table 5.30 - Operational Effects on the Southern Settlement Cluster**

Location
<p>The scattered linear settlement on the eastern side of Basta Voe includes Sellafirth on the A968 within c.1.8km of the Proposed Development, and Cunnister on the minor road to the south within c.2.6km. The properties are mainly orientated facing the coast, with their principal views facing to the south west to Basta Voe and the island in Colgrave Sound beyond. Views from the settlement to the north, from the exposed northern elevation of the settlement, are funnelled along the upper section of Basta Voe and to the open rising empty moorland beyond.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently weakly influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, partially visible to parts of the upper blades to the east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also very weakly influence views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, with limited visibility of a few blades over 16km to the south.</li> </ul>
Determination of Visual Sensitivity

The southern settlement cluster is of **High** sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

**Value - High**

- Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.

**Susceptibility to Change – Medium**

- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive views;
- Orientation of buildings predominantly away from the Proposed Development and towards the coast;
- Limited influence of existing wind farm development at Garth and consented development at Beaw Field.

**Magnitude of Change**

The magnitude of change to the Southern Settlement Cluster caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Substantial**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

**Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the north, away from the immediate setting of Basta Voe, held within the shallow bowl of the surrounding low moorland hills. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction from the principal direction of views the settlement which face across Basta Voe to the south.

Whilst there will be widespread visibility across the dispersed settlement, the ZTV indicates more limited visibility from the sensitive coastal edge around Bayanne House and the associated cluster of housing.

**Geographical Extent**

The photomontage in Viewpoint 7, Figure 5.3.7b, , indicates that there will be visibility to all 29 turbines over a 60° angle of view, to the north, at distances greater than 1.6km.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the Southern Settlement Cluster.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on the Southern Settlement Cluster when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the east and Beaw Field in successive views to the south.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and **Substantial** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major** effect on the Southern Settlement Cluster, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.31: Operational Effects on the Eastern Settlement Cluster**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The scattered linear settlement along the eastern of Yell around Cullivoe encompasses Stronganess, Cullivoe and Greenbank on the B9082 at distances of between 2.4km – 2.9km. The properties are mainly orientated towards the coast, with their principal views facing to the east to the Bluemull Sound and rising ridgeline of Valla Field on Unst. Views from the settlement to the west are oblique to the rising moorland terrain, with a network of small steep hills breaking up the extent of views.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently weakly influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, visible over 4km to the south.</li> </ul>
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>
<p>The eastern settlement cluster is of <b>High</b> sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.</li> <li>▪ The settlement is located within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive views;</li> <li>▪ Orientation of buildings predominantly away from the Proposed Development and towards the coast, set against rising terrain to the west;</li> <li>▪ Influence of existing wind farm development at Garth.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The magnitude of change to the Eastern Settlement Cluster caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be locally <b>Moderate</b> from the centre of Cullivoe and Generally <b>Slight</b> elsewhere. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in partial views as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the west. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction from the principal direction of views from the settlement which face across Bluemull Sound to the east.</p> <p>The ZTV indicates areas of intermittent visibility across the settlement.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The photomontage in Viewpoint 4, Figure 5.3.4b, indicates that from Cullivoe there will be visibility to 8 turbines to hub height and to the parts of blades of 12 turbines over a 55° angle of view, to the west, at distances greater than 2.4km.</p>

Elsewhere visibility will be restricted, with typically views to a single hub and blades of up to 9 turbines, partially visible against rising terrain to the west.
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the Eastern Settlement Cluster.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on the Eastern Settlement Cluster when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the south.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and locally <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change from Cullivoe are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on the Eastern Settlement Cluster, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p> <p>Elsewhere effects on the Eastern Settlement Cluster will be no greater than a <b>Slight</b> magnitude of change, which is considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> effect, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.32 - Operational Effects on the North Eastern Settlement Cluster**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The cluster of settlement on the north eastern extent of Yell, including Haa of Houlland, South Brough/ North Brough, Midbrake and Breckon extends across the undulating extent of the island, set back from the steeper rising terrain to the south west, with expansive views across the north of Bluemull Sound and the open Atlantic to the north. The properties are typically positioned on the eastern side of the terrain, orientated towards the shelter of Bluemull Sound, and away from the prevailing westerly winds. Views from the settlement to the south west, back to the interior of Yell, are slightly more open, oblique to the rising moorland terrain.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently weakly influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, visible over 6km away, to the south.</li> </ul>
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>
<p>The north eastern settlement cluster is of <b>High</b> sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity;</li> <li>▪ The settlement is located within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive views;</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Orientation of buildings predominantly away from the Proposed Development and towards the coast, set against rising terrain to the south west;</li> <li>▪ Influence of existing wind farm development at Garth.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The magnitude of change to the North Eastern Settlement Cluster caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Moderate</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in partial views as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the south west. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction from the principal direction of views from the settlement which face across Bluemull Sound to the east.</p> <p>The ZTV indicates areas of intermittent visibility of 8 – 14 turbines from the majority of the settlement.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The photomontage in Viewpoint 3, Figure 5.3.3b, indicates that from Haa of Houlland there will be visibility to 15 turbines to hub height and to the parts of blades of 12 turbines over a 63° angle of view, to the south west, at distances greater than 2.3km.</p>
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the North Eastern Settlement Cluster.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on the North Eastern Settlement Cluster when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the south.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on the North Eastern Settlement Cluster, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.33 - Operational Effects on the Northern Settlement Cluster**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The cluster of settlement on the northern coastline of Yell, including Gloup and the Kirks, lies at the base of Scordaback, set back from the coast within the northern extent of Gloup Voe. There are expansive views north to the open Atlantic. The properties are typically orientated towards the north west, and away from the prevailing westerly winds. Views from the settlement to the south west, back to the interior of Yell, are oblique to the rising moorland terrain.</p> <p>There is no influence from baseline wind farm development.</p>

### Determination of Visual Sensitivity

The north eastern settlement cluster is of **High** sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### **Value - High**

- Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.
- The settlement is located within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.

#### **Susceptibility to Change – Medium**

- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views;
- Orientation of buildings predominantly away from the Proposed Development and towards the coast, set against rising terrain to the south.

### Magnitude of Change

The magnitude of change to the Northern Settlement Cluster caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Substantial**. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

#### **Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen in partial views as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the south. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction from the principal direction of views from the settlement which face towards the Atlantic to the north.

The ZTV indicates areas of intermittent visibility of up to 14 turbines, seen from the settlement.

#### **Geographical Extent**

The photomontage in Viewpoint 2, Figure 5.3.2b, indicates that from the southern edge of Gloup there will be visibility to 14 turbines to hub height and to the parts of blades of 4 turbines over an 80° angle of view, to the south, at distances greater than 1.2km.

### Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the Northern Settlement Cluster.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will not contribute to a cumulative effect on the Northern Settlement Cluster.

### Significance of Effect

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Substantial** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major** effect on the Northern Settlement Cluster, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.34 - Operational Effects on Belmont, Unst**

Location
<p>The hamlet at Belmont in Unst lies on the southern flank of a low hill rising to the north of the Wick of Belmont, towards the southern extent of the Bluemull Sound. There are expansive views north to the open Atlantic. The properties are orientated north – south with the principal elevation looking south towards the wick of Belmont.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, visible to the west.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence sequential views to the south once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, with limited visibility of a few blades over 17km to the south.</li> </ul>
Determination of Visual Sensitivity
<p>Belmont is of <b>High</b> sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity;</li> <li>▪ The settlement is located within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views;</li> <li>▪ Orientation of buildings predominantly away from the Proposed Development and towards Bluemull Sound.</li> </ul>
Magnitude of Change
<p>The magnitude of change to Belmont caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Moderate</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially seen in views across Bluemull Sound as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction from the principal orientation of views from the settlement which face towards the Wick of Belmont and Bluemull Sound to the south.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The photomontage in Viewpoint 9, Figure 5.3.9b, indicates that from Belmont there will be visibility to 18 turbines to hub height and to the parts of blades of 11 turbines over a 33° angle of view, to the west, at distances greater than 4.7km.</p>

<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the settlement at Belmont.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Moderate cumulative effect on the settlement at Belmont when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the west and Beaw Field in successive views to the south.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on the settlement at Belmont, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.35 - Operational Effects on the Westing Settlement Cluster, Unst**

<b>Location</b>
<p>The dispersed linear settlement at Westing, Unst follows the minor road to the east of Lunda Wick beneath the backdrop of ridgeline at Valla Field. The dispersed cluster includes Burragarth, Underhoull, Houllnan, Westing and Newgord. The properties are orientated to the west with views across the northern extent of Bluemull Sound.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, visible to the south west.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence sequential views to the south once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, with limited visibility of a few blades over c.19km to the south.</li> </ul>
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>
<p>The Westing cluster is of <b>High</b> sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value - High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.</li> <li>▪ The settlement is located within the Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views.</li> <li>▪ Orientation of buildings predominantly towards Bluemull Sound, northern Yell and the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>

<p>The magnitude of change to the Westing cluster caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Moderate</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b><i>Size or Scale</i></b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in direct views across Bluemull Sound as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell. The Proposed Development will be viewed within the principal direction of views from the settlement towards Bluemull Sound.</p> <p><b><i>Geographical Extent</i></b></p> <p>The photomontage in Viewpoint 10, Figure 5.3.10b, indicates that from the Westing there will be visibility to all 29 turbines to hub height turbines over a 31° angle of view, to the west, over a distance 6.7km.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p>
<p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the Westing Settlement Cluster.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Moderate cumulative effect on the Westing Settlement Cluster when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the south west and Beaw Field to the south.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on the Westing Settlement Cluster, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.36 - Operational Effects on Mid Yell**

<p><b>Location</b></p>
<p>The settlement at Mid Yell, lies across rising land to the south of Mid Yell Voe. The settlement comprises two tiers of housing. The modern housing on higher ground at Hillend on the B9081 experiences expansive panoramic views across Mid Yell Voe towards the interior hills.</p> <p>There are no existing or consented developments influencing the existing baseline.</p>
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p>
<p>The settlement at Mid Yell is of <b>High</b> sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b><i>Value - High</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Susceptibility to Change – Medium</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views;</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation of buildings predominantly towards Mid Yell Voe, northern Yell and the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b></p>
<p>The magnitude of change to Hillend, Mid Yell caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be <b>Slight</b>. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen towards the interior of Yell as a noticeable, new man-made development, contrasting with the soft hues of the moorland hills, located away from the expansive views to Mid Yell Voe to the north east and Colgrave Sound in the east.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The photomontage in Viewpoint 15, Figure 5.3.15b, at the Hill of Reafirth is representative of the typical nature of views towards the development from a position close to Mid Yell. Analysis of wireframe views indicate that from the Westing there will be visibility to all 14 turbines to hub height and 12 turbines to parts of their blades over a 17° angle of view, to the north over a distance 9.6km.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p>
<p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on Mid Yell.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will not contribute to a cumulative effect on Mid Yell.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Slight</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> effect on Mid Yell, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.37 - Operational Effects on Burra Voe**

<p><b>Location</b></p>
<p>The settlement at Burra Voe on east coast of North Roe follows the A970 around the western edge of the bay at Burra Voe. The settlement comprises a loose cluster of houses with views focussed on the sheltered bay. The entrance to the bay reveals expansive views to Yell Sound and the distant profile of Yell.</p> <p>There are no existing or consented developments influencing the existing baseline.</p>
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p>

The settlement at Mid Yell is of **High** sensitivity. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

**Value - High**

- Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.

**Susceptibility to Change – Medium**

- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views;
- Orientation of buildings predominantly towards Burra Voe.

**Magnitude of Change**

The magnitude of change to the settlement at Burra Voe caused by the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be locally **Slight** to those properties to the south of the settlement only. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

**Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views as a noticeable, new man-made development on the ridgeline of Yell, beyond Yell Sound. The Proposed development will only be visible from properties at the southern edge of Burra Voe, as further north local terrain on the north side of Burra Voe provides containment.

**Geographical Extent**

The photomontage in Viewpoint 19, Figure 5.3.19b, at Burra Voe illustrates the localised view towards the Proposed Development, indicating visibility of 23 turbines to hub height and 4 turbines to parts of their blades over a 12° angle of view, to the north east over a distance of 17.4km.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on Mid Yell.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will not contribute to a cumulative effect on Mid Yell.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Slight** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Moderate** effect on Mid Yell, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Not Significant**.

**Summary of Effects on Settlements**

5.6.86 Table 5.38 lists and summarises effects on the settlements assessed above. It sets out their sensitivity to change, the magnitude of change that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development, and the level of resultant effects and their significance.

**Table 5.38 - Summary of Effects on Settlements**

Settlement	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
<b>Southern Cluster:</b> Sellafirth; Cunnister.	High	Substantial	Major	<b>Significant</b>
<b>Eastern Cluster:</b> Stronganess; Cullivoe; Greenbank.	High	Moderate (Cullivoe)	Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
<b>North Eastern Cluster:</b> Haa of Houlland; Midbrake; North and South Brough; Breckon.	High	Moderate	Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
<b>Northern Cluster:</b> Gloup; The Kirks	High	Substantial	Major	<b>Significant</b>
<b>Belmont</b>	High	Moderate	Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
<b>Westing Cluster:</b> Burragarth; Underhoull; Houllnan; Westing; Newgord	High	Moderate	Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
<b>Mid Yell</b>	High	Slight	Moderate	Not Significant
<b>Burra Voe</b>	High	Slight	Moderate	Not Significant

**Assessment of Effects on Routes**

- 5.6.87 The following section provides an assessment of the predicted effects of the Proposed Development on visual amenity that would be experienced by travellers using vehicular and non-vehicular route corridors within the Study Area, including roads and designated cycle routes. The assessment has been undertaken through field survey and the analysis of mapping ZTV and wireframe views, in order to confirm the likely nature of visibility.
- 5.6.88 In accordance with the criteria outlined in the detailed methodology in Appendix 5.1, the sensitivity of receptors from cycle routes is generally considered to be high. Receptors using road routes (i.e. motorised vehicle users of cars/ motorbikes/ buses) are considered to range from low or low to medium (e.g. for trunk and main roads) through to medium (for B-roads, minor roads etc.) sensitivity, although vehicle users of routes promoted or noted for scenic value may be of medium to high sensitivity. There may also be value attached to specific views along the routes or particular stretches where they pass through or overlook designated landscapes.
- 5.6.89 An indication of the predicted extents of visibility (both blade tip and hub height) route corridors is provided within the visibility mapping in Figures 5.2.1 to 5.2.8.
- 5.6.90 The principal effects on these routes with potential views of the Proposed Development, as identified in Tables 5.39 – 5.43, are assessed below.

**Table 5.39 - Operational Effects on A968 / National Cycle Route 1**

**Route Description**

The A968 connects through the Study Area between the Ulsta ferry terminal in the south of Yell, via the Bluemull Sound ferry crossing, to Haroldswick on Unst. The section the route through central Yell at Basta Voe passes within 1.5km of the Proposed Development.

The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:

- *East Bluemull Sound / West Unst Visual Compartment* - Garth Wind Farm which lies c.1.1km to the north of the route at Gutcher.

The following consented development will also influence sequential views from the route once operational:

- *East Bluemull Sound / West Unst Visual Compartment* - Beaw Field, which lies c.5.2km to the east of the route at Ulsta.
- *Yell Sound Visual Compartment* - Viking, which lies c.18km to the south of the route at Ulsta.

The following planning stage development will also weakly influence the LCA if consented:

- *Yell Sound Visual Compartment* - Viking variation, which lies c.18km to the south of the route at Ulsta.

#### **Determination of Visual Sensitivity**

People in motorised vehicles using the route are considered to be of **Medium** sensitivity to changes resulting from the Proposed Development. Cyclists using the route are considered to be of **High** sensitivity to changes resulting from the Proposed Development. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

##### **Value – Medium**

- The route passes the West Sandick LLA;
- The route passes the Bluemull Sound LLA.

##### **Susceptibility to Change – Medium/High**

- Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor;
- Cyclists are likely to be using the route for recreation and tourism purposes and will be aware of views to the surrounding landscape;
- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views.

#### **Magnitude of Change**

From a short section of the route as it passes across the col at the Hill of Boubister, there will be a locally **Slight** magnitude of change. As the route passes around Basta Voe there will be a **Substantial** magnitude of change. There will be a **Moderate** magnitude of Change on the approaches to the Gutcher and Belmont ferry terminals over a c.1.5km section of each road. There will be a **Slight** magnitude of change for c.500m section of the route at the junction with the minor road to Westing.

##### **Size or Scale**

*Yell Sound Visual Compartment* - The ZTV plan indicates a short section of initial visibility from the route from the western side of Yell as the route rises above the Head of Brough. There will be distant views to the turbine blades over 14.5km, to the north east, away from the main focus of the route corridor.

*Mid and North Yell Visual Compartment* - The Proposed Development will be partially seen in views from the Hill Boubister as a noticeable new element on the horizon in views to the north over c.10.5km, seen towards the interior of Yell as a noticeable, new man-made development, contrasting with the soft hues of the moorland hills.

*Colgrave Sound Visual Compartment* - As the route passes around Basta Voe there will be direct views to the Proposed Development which will be seen as a large-scale element in views to the north set within the loose framework of moorland hills. The turbines will be seen between distances of 6km and 1.5km with the scale and influence increasing with proximity.

*East Bluemull Sound / West Unst Visual Compartment* - On the approaches to Gutcher and Belmont ferry terminals the extent of views will vary as the local terrain screens views. Where visible the Proposed development will be seen as a large-scale new development across the skyline of north Yell, in the backdrop to the expansive views across the Bluemull Sound.

*East Unst Visual Compartment* - From the interior of Unst the Proposed Development would be seen partially as a noticeable new element on the skyline in views to the south west.

#### **Geographical Extent**

*Yell Sound Visual Compartment* - The initial views to the Proposed Development from western Yell will be limited by terrain with only a short section of partial visibility.

*Mid and North Yell Visual Compartment* - The photomontage in Viewpoint 13, Figure 5.3.13b, in central Yell is representative of the typical nature of partial, distant views towards the development as the route crosses through the centre of Yell. There will be visibility to 9 turbines to hub height and 20 turbines to parts of their blades over a 20° angle of view, to the north over a distance 10.3km.

*Colgrave Sound Visual Compartment* - The photomontage in Viewpoint 6, Figure 5.3.6b, at Colvister is representative of the direct views to Proposed Development from A968 as it passes through Basta Voe, experienced from west of Basta through to eastern Sellafirth. From Colvister there will be visibility to all 29 turbines to hub height over a 40° angle of view, to the north over a distance 10.3km.

*East Bluemull Sound / West Unst Visual Compartment* - The photomontage in Viewpoint 9, Figure 5.3.9b, at Belmont House, close to the A968 road corridor, is representative of the typical nature of views to Proposed Development on the approach to the Belmont and Gutcher Ferries. From Belmont there will be visibility to 19 turbines to hub height and 10 turbines to parts of blades, over a 33° angle of view, to the west over a distance 4.7km. The extent of visibility reduces closer to Bluemull Sound. From Gutcher visibility will be reduced to several turbine blades.

*East Unst Visual Compartment* – analysis of wireframes indicates that from central southern Unst, around the junction with the minor road to Westing, there will be a short section of the route with visibility to 16 turbines to hub height and 7 turbines to parts of blades. The Proposed Development will be seen to the west, perpendicular to the direction of travel, over a distance of 6.5km, and within a 21° angle of view.

#### **Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

<p><i>Yell Sound Visual Compartment</i> - The <i>addition</i> of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any significant cumulative sequential effects.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Moderate cumulative effect on this route within the <i>East Bluemull Sound / West Unst Visual Compartment</i> when seen in combined views with Garth Wind Farm.</p>				
Significance of Effect				
Section of A968 / NCR 1	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Yell Sound Visual Compartment	Motorists – Medium Cyclists - High	Negligible	Minor Moderate / Minor	Not Significant
Mid Yell Visual Compartment	Motorists – Medium Cyclists - High	Slight	Moderate / Minor Moderate	Not Significant
Colgrave Sound Visual Compartment – Basta Voe	Motorists – Medium Cyclists - High	Substantial	Major/Moderate Major	<b>Significant</b>
East Bluemull Sound / West Unst Visual Compartment -	Motorists – Medium Cyclists - High	Moderate	Moderate Major/Moderate	Not Significant <b>Significant</b>
East Unst Visual Compartment	Motorists – Medium Cyclists - High	Slight	Moderate / Minor Moderate	Not Significant

**Table 5.40 - Operational Effects on A970**

Route Description
<p>The A970 connects communities on the north eastern coast of North Roe to the Mainland.</p> <p>The following consented development will influence sequential views from the route once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>North Roe/ Yell Sound Visual Compartment</i> - Beaw Field, which lies c.15km to the east of the route as it passes through Colla Firth.</li> </ul>
Determination of Visual Sensitivity

People in motorised vehicles using the route are considered to be of **Medium** sensitivity to changes resulting from the Proposed Development. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

**Value – Medium**

- The route passes the Ronas Hill LLA.

**Susceptibility to Change – Medium/High**

- Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor;
- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views.

**Magnitude of Change**

From a very short section of the route as it passes through the southern edge of Burra Voe will be a locally **Slight** magnitude of change.

**Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen within a distant framed view to Yell from the southern edge of Burra Voe, across Yell Sound as a noticeable new element on the horizon in views to the west, over c.14.5km.

**Geographical Extent**

The photomontage in Viewpoint 19, Figure 5.3.19b, at Burra Voe illustrates the view towards the Proposed Development as the route passes through the settlement. There will be visibility to 25 turbines to hub height and 2 turbines to parts of their blades over a 13° angle of view. Similar views will be experience along a short c.500m section of the route.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

*Yell Sound Visual Compartment* - The *addition* of the proposal to the in-planning Viking (tip extension) application will not result in any significant cumulative sequential effects.

*Yell Sound Visual Compartment* - The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on this route when seen in sequential views with Garth Wind Farm.

**Significance of Effect**

Section of A970	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Yell Sound Visual Compartment	Motorists – Medium	Locally Slight	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant

**Table 5.41 - Operational Effects on B9081**

<b>Route Description</b>
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The B9081 connects between south Yell and the settlement at Mid Yell, connecting communities on the south eastern coast of Yell.

The following consented development will influence sequential views from the route once operational:

- *Colgrave Sound Visual Compartment* - Beaw Field, which spans the route as it passes between Burravoe and Gossabrough.

**Determination of Visual Sensitivity**

People in vehicles using the route are considered to be of **Medium** sensitivity to changes resulting from the Proposed Development. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:

*Value – Medium/Low*

*Susceptibility to Change – Medium*

- Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor;
- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views;
- The road corridor is elevated as it passes to the east of the Hill of Reafirth with expansive views.

**Magnitude of Change**

For c.3.2km of the route there will be a **Slight** magnitude of change.

*Size or Scale*

The Proposed Development will be seen on the horizon to the north within the interior moorland hills as a visible new large-scale element in the back drop of views to Mid Yell Voe.

*Geographical Extent*

The photomontage in Viewpoint 15, Figure 5.3.15b, at the Hill of Reafirth illustrates the typical nature of views that will be experienced along a 3.2km section of the route over distances of 12.3km and 9.1km from the Proposed Development. There will be visibility to all turbines to hub height over a 15° angle of view.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

*Colgrave Sound Visual Compartment* - The *addition* of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any significant cumulative sequential effects.

*Colgrave Sound Visual Compartment* - The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in sequential views with Beaw Field Wind Farm.

**Significance of Effect**

Section of B9081	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
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Colgrave Sound Visual Compartment	Motorists – Medium	Locally Slight	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant
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**Table 5.42 - Operational Effects on B9083**

<b>Route Description</b>
<p>The B9083 connects between south Stonganess and the Haa of Houlland, connecting communities in north eastern Yell.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>East Bluemull Sound Visual Compartment</i> - Garth Wind Farm which lies to the south of the route and will be visible in sequential and combined views.</li> </ul>
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>
<p>People in vehicles using the route are considered to be of <b>Medium</b> sensitivity to changes resulting from the Proposed Development. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The route is within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor;</li> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views;</li> <li>▪ The rising terrain to the west focusses views towards the expansive coastal setting of Bluemull Sound and away from the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>There will be a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen on the skyline to the west of the route corridor as it follows the Bluemull Sound, and as the route swings west at the Haa of Houlland the turbines will be visible to the south of road. The undulating terrain will break up visibility intermittently however, it is the turbines along the eastern and northern edges of the array which will be visible, with the remaining turbines set back. The Proposed Development will appear as a prominent new large-scale element, seen within the interior moorland hills, set back away from immediate foreground views along the coastline.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The following viewpoints demonstrate the changing nature of views along the route sequentially from south to north west.</p>

<p>Viewpoint 4, Figure 5.3.4b, at Cullivoe illustrates visibility to 7 turbines to hub height on the eastern edge of the array, with further visibility to 12 turbine blades, over a 56° angle of view to the west.</p> <p>Viewpoint 3, Figure 5.3.13b, at Haa of Houlland illustrates visibility to 14 turbines to hub height on the northern edge of the array, with further visibility to 13 turbine blades, over a 63° angle of view to the south.</p>				
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>				
<p><i>East Bluemull Sound Visual Compartment</i> - The addition of the proposal to the in-planning Viking (tip extension) application will not result in any significant cumulative effects.</p> <p><i>East Bluemull Sound Visual Compartment</i> - The total cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in sequential views with Garth Wind Farm.</p>				
<b>Significance of Effect</b>				
Section of B9081	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
East Bluemull Sound Visual Compartment	Motorists – Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Not Significant

**Table 5.43 - Operational Effects on the Bluemull Sound Ferry**

<b>Route Description</b>
<p>The ferry connects across the Bluemull Sound between Gutcher, Belmont and Hamars Ness on Fetlar</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>East Bluemull Sound and East Unst and North Fetlar Visual Compartments</i> - Garth Wind Farm which lies to the north east of the crossing which will be visible in combined views.</li> </ul>
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>
<p>People in vehicles using the ferry are considered to be of <b>High</b> sensitivity overall to changes resulting from the Proposed Development. The factors which have contributed to this judgement are as follows:</p> <p><b>Value – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The route is within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whilst the majority of ferry users are likely to be regular commuters who remain in their cars for the duration of the crossing, there are also many people using the route for</li> </ul>

<p>recreation and tourism who will be and will be aware of views to the surrounding landscape/seascape;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expansive views across Bluemull Sound and the surrounding islands.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b></p>
<p>There will be a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change from much of the ferry route.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen on the skyline to the west of the Bluemull Sound, set back into the interior of northern Yell. The turbines will appear as a new large-scale element, seen within the interior moorland hills, set back away from immediate foreground views along the coastline.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The following viewpoints whilst not taken from the ferry itself, are representative of the typical nature of views that will be experienced during the crossing.</p> <p>Viewpoint 9, Figure 5.3.9b, Belmont, indicates that there will be visibility to 18 turbines to hub height and to the parts of blades of 11 turbines over a 33° angle of view, to the west, at distances greater than 4.7km.</p> <p>Viewpoint 12, Figure 5.3.12 Brough Lodge, indicates that there will be visibility to all 29 turbines over a 16° angle of view, at 10km.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p>
<p><i>East Bluemull Sound and East Unst and North Fetlar Visual Compartments</i> - The addition of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any significant cumulative effects.</p> <p><i>East Bluemull Sound and East Unst and North Fetlar Visual Compartments</i> - The total cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in combined views with Garth Wind Farm and sequential views with Beaw Field Wind Farm.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on ferry users, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

### **Assessment of Residual Effects at Viewpoints at the Operational Stage**

- 5.6.91 The viewpoint assessment has been carried out to identify and evaluate the effects on visual amenity arising from the Proposed Development at specific representative locations in the Study Area. The selection of viewpoints is discussed in Section 5.6.
- 5.6.92 The predicted views from each of the 21 viewpoint locations are illustrated using the wireframes or photomontages in Figures 5.3.1 to 5.3.21, which are accurate graphic representations in terms of the positioning, spatial distribution and size of the turbines.
- 5.6.93 For the purposes of assessing the effects on visual amenity, the sensitivity of the receptors is as defined in Appendix 5.1.

5.6.94 The following detailed analysis of the 21 viewpoints includes a description of the existing and predicted view, an assignment of receptor sensitivity (including confirmation of receptor susceptibility and the value applied to the viewpoint), an analysis of the magnitude of change, and an assessment of the level of predicted effects on visual amenity, and a determination of their significance. The supporting figures include: a viewpoint location plan; existing photographic view with wireframes illustrating the position of all built and consented wind farms. Viewpoints are also supported by photomontage visualisations. Visualisations have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of SNH’s Visual Representation of Windfarms, Guidance, Version 2.2, February 2017, as described in Appendix 5.1.

**Duration and Reversibility of the Visual Effects**

5.6.95 The magnitude of changes that would be experienced by visual receptors as a result of the Proposed Development relates in part to the duration of effects and their permanence/ reversibility. The effects will continue for the permitted life of the wind farm, which is set at 30 years. Following this time period, in the absence of a renewed planning permission, the turbines will be removed and the landscape reinstated with the majority of proposed changes being fully reversible upon decommissioning.

5.6.96 As the duration and reversibility of the effects of the Proposed Development will be common to all visual receptors, they have been implicitly considered with regard to the likely magnitude of change in all views, but are not repeated with regard to each viewpoint to avoid repetition.

**Assessment of Effects**

**Table 5.44 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 1, Tittyans Hill, Yell**

<b>Viewpoint 1, Tittyans Hill, Yell</b>	
5.3.1 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); ci) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development (left hand field of view) cii) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development (right hand field of view) and di) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development (left hand field of view) dii) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development (right hand field of view).	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	0.6km to the north west
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA B1: Yell Peatlands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Walkers – High Crofters - Medium
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	All 29 turbines to Hub Height
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
The viewpoint is located on Tittynans Hill close to the old track, and former road, which passes through the southern edge of Yell’s northern interior, connecting Basta Voe to Cullivoe. The route provides access crofting lands and peat cutting banks and is also used by walkers accessing Yell’s interior.	
The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm which lies c.1.8km to the east will be visible in successive views.</li> </ul>	

The following consented development will also weakly influence views once operational:

- Beaw Field, which lies c.16.7km to the south will be visible in successive views.

#### Description of Existing View

The existing view looks north west, from a position above the track, on the north west flank of Tittynans Hill, at c.93m AOD. The view is expansive across the empty moorland of north Yell, with the low interlocking hills defining a gently undulating horizon. Gossa Water is seen to the left of the image, with the incised River Burn and Burn of Gossa Water seen as darker sinuous lines crossing the moorland. To the right of the image the deeply incised dale, with interlocking spurs leads towards Gloup Voe.

#### Determination of Visual Sensitivity

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **High** for walkers and **Medium** for Crofters, the former accessing the route for recreation and therefore more susceptible to changes in the view:

*Value – Medium/Low*

*Susceptibility to Change – High*

- Expansive views to the empty moorland interior of northern Yell with landscape scale difficult to discern away from the coastal developments.

#### Magnitude of Change

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a **Substantial**.

##### *Size or Scale*

The Proposed Development will be seen in its entirety extending across the moorland to the north west from the viewpoint. The turbines will appear as large-scale vertical elements, with slowly rotating blades, seen as a single extended turbine group within the interior moorland hills.

##### *Geographical Extent*

All the turbines will be seen to their full extent over a 79° angle of view. Views of this nature will be experienced along the majority of the route from Basta Voe until the track passes into Sinni Dale to the north.

#### Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

The *addition* of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any cumulative effects.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in local successive views with Garth Wind Farm and distant successive views to Beaw Field Wind Farm.

#### Significance of Effect

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** and **Medium** sensitivity and a **Substantial** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major** effect on walkers, and a **Major/Moderate** effect on crofters, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.45 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 2, Fishermen’s Memorial, Gloup, Yell**

<b>Viewpoint 2, Fishermen’s Memorial, Gloup, Yell</b>	
5.3.2 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); ci) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development (left hand field of view) cii) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development (right hand field of view) and di) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development (left hand field of view) dii) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development (right hand field of view).	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	1.2km to the south
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA E3: Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Residents, Walkers and Visitors – High Crofters - Medium
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	14 turbines to Hub Height, 4 turbines to parts of blades
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located at the southern edge of the hamlet at Gloup, adjacent to the Gloup Fishing Disaster Memorial, at c.27 m AOD. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on local residents and tourists/walkers visiting the Gloup Memorial, and also crofters accessing the surrounding farmland.</p> <p>There are/will be existing or consented wind farms influencing views.</p>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>The existing view looks south away from the main focus of the formal Gloup Memorial and viewpoint, which is to the open Atlantic to the north, and into the deep coastal inlet of Gloup Voe. The Hill of Bakkanalee rises to the south west, framing the backdrop to the voe. Footpaths to the interior of north Yell are seen skirting the edge of the Wester Lee of Gloup in the background, with the path in foreground leading to the Easter Lee of Gloup beneath Scordaback Hill. The containing side slopes of voe are covered by sheltered pastures.</p>	
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>	
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for residents, walkers and visitors to the Memorial and <b>Medium</b> for</p>	

Crofters, the former receptors accessing the paths and the viewpoint for recreation and are therefore more susceptible to changes in the view:

**Value – Medium**

- The route is within the Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.

**Susceptibility to Change – Medium**

- Restricted view to the south, into the tightly contained by land form of Gloop Voe, contrasting with expansive views to the Atlantic to the north.
- The Gloop Fishing Memorial is orientated to face to the north with views towards the Atlantic.

**Magnitude of Change**

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a **Substantial**.

**Size or Scale**

The northern turbines of the Proposed Development will be seen on the skyline to the south, within the extent of Gloop Voe. The large-scale vertical elements, with slowly rotating blades will contrast with the dramatic land form of Gloop Voe, altering the perception of landscape scale.

**Geographical Extent**

The turbines will extend across an 82° angle of view, introducing extensive change, and a large new focal point to the view. The turbines affect views to the south and will be seen in a position which is set back from the immediate coastal edge and within the moorland hills of the interior. The internal tracks and other infrastructure would be contained from view.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

There will be no *additional* or *total* cumulative effects arising from built, consented or planning stage schemes.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Substantial** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major** effect on residents, walkers and visitors, and a **Major/Moderate** effect on crofters, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.46 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 3, Haa of Houlland, Yell**

**Viewpoint 3, Haa of Houlland**

5.3.3 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); ci) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development (left hand field of view) cii) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development (right hand field of view) and di) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development (left hand field of view) dii) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development (right hand field of view).

<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	2.3km to the south west
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA E3: Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Residents - High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	15 turbines to Hub Height, 13 turbines to parts of blades
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located adjacent to the settlement cluster at the Haa of Houlland. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on local residents.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm which lies c.3.7km to the south will be visible as a minor element in successive views.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is positioned immediately to the west of the cluster of settlement at the Haa of Houlland, on an access track leading towards the enclosed pastures on the edge of the settlement. The view looks away from the settlement towards the gently rising hills within the interior of Yell, Houlland Hill frames the view to the left of the image. The continuation of the access track is seen, snaking across the northern flank of Houlland Hill, in the distance.</p>	
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>	
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for residents:</p> <p><b>Value – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The viewpoint is within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The main focus of scenic views and majority of the residential properties will be to the north and north east towards the Atlantic Coast and Bluemull Sound.</li> </ul>	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Moderate</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The turbines on the northern edge of the Proposed Development will be seen on the skyline to the south west, as large-scale vertical elements, with slowly rotating blades. The turbines will contrast with the soft hues of the moorland hills. The Proposed development will only be partly visible and the scale of the turbines will be difficult to judge, due to the absence of scale reference points within the low hills.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p>	

The turbines will extend across a 65° angle of view, introducing change to secondary views from the settlement, and the turbines will be perceived to be set back into the interior of north Yell. Views to the internal tracks and other infrastructure would be contained from view.
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any cumulative effects.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in local successive views with Garth Wind Farm.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on residents, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b> .

**Table 5.47 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 4, Cullivoe**

<b>Viewpoint 4, Cullivoe</b>	
5.3.4 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	2.5km to the west
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA F5: Scattered Settlement / Crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Residents and Visitors - High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	9 turbines to Hub Height, 11 turbines to parts of blades
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located in the car park adjacent to the Cullivoe Public Hall, and is close to the local post office, bus stop and a cluster of residential properties. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on local residents and visitors using the public hall and visiting Cullivoe.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm which lies c.2.3km to the south will be visible in successive views.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	

The existing view looks westward away from the settlement and the main focus of local views, which are to Bluemull Sound in the east, to the gently rising hills within the interior of Yell. The foreground view to the rear of the car park is punctuated with hook up points for camper vans and a waste water disposal area. A small domestic wind turbine is seen in the centre of the view, with a redundant wind turbine generator on the ground at the edge of the car park. Beyond the terrain rises through enclosed local pastures at the edge of the settlement, with small hill at Hu Field framing the right-hand edge of the photo. The distant moorland is traversed by the faint line of the access track which connects Cullivoe from to Basta Voe.

#### Determination of Visual Sensitivity

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **High** for residents and visitors:

##### *Value – Medium*

- The viewpoint is within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.

##### *Susceptibility to Change – Medium*

- The presence of existing domestic and commercial scale renewable energy infrastructure reduces the sensitivity to additional development.
- The main focus of scenic views will be to the east towards the Bluemull Sound.

#### Magnitude of Change

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a **Moderate**.

##### *Size or Scale*

The view will be restricted to the eastern turbines of the Proposed Development which will be seen on the skyline to the west, as large-scale vertical elements, with slowly rotating blades. The turbines will contrast with the soft hues of the moorland hills. The Proposed Development will only be partly visible and the scale of the turbines will be difficult to judge, due to the absence of scale reference points within the low hills.

##### *Geographical Extent*

The turbines will extend across a 56° angle of view, introducing change to secondary views from the settlement, with the turbines perceived to be set back into the interior of north Yell. Views to the internal tracks and other infrastructure would be contained from view.

#### Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

The *addition* of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any cumulative effects.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in local successive views with Garth Wind Farm.

#### Significance of Effect

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on residents and visitors, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.48 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 5, Sands of Breckon, Yell**

<p><b>Viewpoint 5, Sands of Breckon</b></p> <p>5.3.5 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	2.7km to the south west
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA G: Coastal Edge
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Visitors and Walkers - High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	6 turbines to Hub Height, 5 turbines to parts of blades
<p><b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b></p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the edge of the Sands of Breckon beach. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on walkers and visitors at this popular location.</p> <p>There are no built or consented wind farm developments influencing the baseline.</p>	
<p><b>Description of Existing View</b></p> <p>The view looks south across the beach to the rocky coastline across the Wick of Breckon and the distant profile of the Hill of Brimness. The settlement at Breckon is seen to the left of the image.</p>	
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p> <p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for walkers and visitors:</p> <p><b>Value – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The viewpoint is within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The grain of the landform and the long peninsula of the Ness of Houlland orientate principal views from Breckon Sands towards the open Atlantic to the north.</li> <li>▪ Visitors will be focussed on the surrounding scenery and views.</li> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform and expansive coastal views.</li> </ul>	

<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Moderate</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be substantially contained from view, with five turbines breaking the enclosing skyline to the south. The visible turbines will appear as new large-scale vertical elements with slowly rotating blades, seen in contrast to the flow of the smooth coastal hills.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The turbines will extend across a 51° angle of view, extending across the backdrop of hills, and will be seen in secondary views from Breckon Beach. The turbines will be viewed in the same field of view as the settled coastal edge, and will extend the influence of development. Views to the internal tracks and other infrastructure would be contained from view.</p>
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>There will be no <i>additional or total</i> cumulative effects arising from built, consented or planning stage schemes.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on walkers and visitors which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.49 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 6, A968 Colvister, Yell**

<b>Viewpoint 6, A968 Colvister, Yell</b>	
5.3.6 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	3.3km to the north
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA B1: Yell Peatlands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Road Users – Medium Cyclists - High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	28 turbines to Hub Height, 1 turbine to parts of blades, and part of substation.
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	

The viewpoint is located on the A968 as it passes through Basta Voe, adjacent to the hamlet at Colvister. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on road users passing through Yell.

The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:

- Garth Wind Farm, visible in sequential views to the north east.

#### Description of Existing View

The sweeping view looks north across the northern extent of Basta Voe, towards the interior moorland hills of northern Yell, following the curving route of the A968. The view is contained by the Hill of Dalsetter to the left and set against the backdrop of Tittynans Hill to the right, Sandwater Hill is seen as the distant backdrop to the view in the centre of the image. The settlement at the north edge of Sellafirth is seen to the right of the image. The waterworks building is seen above the Sheds and the pier on the western edge of Basta Voe in the centre of image, with the derelict settlement at Dalsetter seen in profile to the left. Roadside power line poles punctuate the otherwise strong horizontal alignment of the landscape.

#### Determination of Visual Sensitivity

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **Medium** for road users and **High** for Cyclists:

##### *Value – Medium*

- The A968 forms part of National Cycle Route 1.

##### *Susceptibility to Change – Medium/High*

- Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor.
- Cyclists are likely to be using the route for recreation and tourism purposes and will be aware of views to the surrounding landscape.
- Views along Basta Voe are encircled by low hills and are focussed towards the interior of northern Yell.

#### Magnitude of Change

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a **Substantial**.

##### *Size or Scale*

The Proposed Development will be seen as an extensive large-scale new element in views to the north. The change to the view will be at a landscape wide scale of change, extending across the shallow depression encircled by low hills at the head of Basta Voe. When viewed in the context of the prevailing pattern of settlement around the head of Basta Voe the scale relationship of the turbines will be more clearly seen.

##### *Geographical Extent*

The Proposed Development will be seen to extend within the encircling hill to the north of Basta Voe. The turbines will extend across a 40° angle of view, forming the main focus for views on the approaches the head of Basta Voe. There will be oblique views to the internal tracks, part of the sub station, and other infrastructure associated with the turbines.

Potential for Future Cumulative Effects
<p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any cumulative effects.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in local successive views with Garth Wind Farm.</p>
Significance of Effect
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>Medium</b> and <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Substantial</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on road users and a <b>Major</b> effect on cyclists which in the context of this assessment are considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.50 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 7, Cunnister, Yell**

Viewpoint 7, Cunnister, Yell	
<p>5.3.7 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm	3.6km to the north
LCA/CCA and Designations	LCA F5: Scattered Settlement/Crofting and Grazing Lands
Receptor and Sensitivity to Change	Residents – High
Theoretical visibility	28 turbines to Hub Height
Location and Rationale for Selection	
<p>The viewpoint is located on the minor road at Cunnister, to the south of Sellafirth. It has been selected to illustrate the typical nature of effects on the residents of the Cunnister.</p> <p>There are no built or consented wind farm developments influencing the baseline.</p>	
Description of Existing View	
<p>The sweeping view looks north across the northern extent of Basta Voe, towards the interior moorland hills of northern Yell. The settlement at Sellafirth is seen in the middle ground, with scattered housing either side of the A968. The view is contained by the low ridge of the Hill of Dalsetter to the left and set against the backdrop of Tittynans Hill to the right. The derelict settlement at Dalsetter is seen in the background to the centre of the image. Sheds and a pier are seen on the western shoreline, used to service the aquaculture developments within Basta Voe.</p>	

<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for residents:</p> <p><b>Value – Medium/Low</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The viewpoint is within the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.</li> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive views.</li> <li>▪ Orientation of buildings predominantly away from the Proposed Development and towards the coast.</li> </ul>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Substantial</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as an extensive new large-scale element in views to the north, extending across the shallow depression encircled by low hills at the head of Basta Voe. The Proposed Development will be set back from the immediate foreground of Basta Voe in this view, and the scale of change will be moderated.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen to extend within the encircling hill to the north of Basta Voe. The turbines will extend across a 35° angle of view, forming a prominent new addition to wider views. There will be oblique views to some of the internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines.</p>
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
<p>There will be no <i>additional</i> or <i>total</i> cumulative effects arising from built, consented or planning stage schemes.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
<p>The combination of the judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Substantial</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major</b> effect on residents, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.51 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 8, Nev of Stuis, Yell**

<p><b>Viewpoint 8, Nev of Stuis, Yell</b></p> <p><b>5.3.8 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5°</b></p>
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<b>panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</b>	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	4.2km to the north east
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA G1: Coastal Edge
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Walkers – High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	15 turbines to Hub Height, 14 turbines to parts of blades
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located at the tip of the Stuis of Graveland headland at the Nev of Stuis. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on walkers visiting this remote coastal landscape.</p> <p>There are no built or consented wind farm developments influencing the baseline.</p>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>Views from the Nev of Stuis are expansive across the exposed Atlantic coastline of north Yell, with cliffs, geos and sea stacks, set against the backdrop of the low moorland hills beyond. Visitors to the Nev of Stuis will experience wider panoramic views, both west towards Yell Sound and North Roe, and south east into the sheltered waters of Whalefirth.</p>	
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>	
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for walkers:</p> <p><b>Value – Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The viewpoint is within the West Sandwick to Gloup Holm LLA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walkers will be engaged in the experience of the landscape, with a strong awareness of their surroundings and an expectation of remoteness in this area.</li> <li>▪ Elemental coastal scenery with expansive views with no visible development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Substantial</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will add slowly moving new man-made vertical elements into the remote landscape/seascape along the skyline of north Yell, forming a new focal point within the simple setting and contrasting with the subtle hues of the broadly horizontal landscape. The Proposed Development is set back from the immediate coastal edge in this view.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p>	

The Proposed Development will be seen to extend along much of the backdrop to the coastal edge in northern Yell. The turbines will extend across a 43° angle of view, forming a prominent new addition to wider views. The internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines will not be visible.
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
There will be no <i>additional</i> or <i>total</i> cumulative effects arising from built, consented or planning stage schemes.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
The combination of the judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Substantial</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major</b> effect on walkers, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b> .

**Table 5.52 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 9, Belmont House, Unst**

<b>Viewpoint 9, Belmont House, Unst</b>	
5.3.9 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	4.7km to the west
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA E3: Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Visitors - High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	18 turbines to Hub Height, 11 turbines to parts of blades
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located on the north western side of Belmont House, Unst. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on visitors to Belmont House the surrounding Garden and Designed Landscape.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, visible to the west.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence sequential views to the south once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, with limited visibility of a few blades over 17km to the south.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	

The view looks west across enclosed pasture land beside the house, with low walls and the cupola of a summerhouse enclosing the immediate foreground. There are partial views beyond to the Loch of Belmont which is flanked by the rising backdrop of the low ridge of Braesides. Beyond the distant moorland hills of Yell rise above Bluemull Sound which is hidden from view. The five turbines of Garth Wind Farm are seen in a single linear array on the distant skyline.

#### **Determination of Visual Sensitivity**

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **High** for visitors:

##### ***Value – High***

- The viewpoint is within the Belmont House Garden and Designed Landscape.
- The viewpoint is within the Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.

##### ***Susceptibility to Change – Medium***

- The main focus of scenic views from Belmont House is on the approach to the house from the east and the dramatic formal view to the south towards the Wick of Belmont.
- Visitors will be focussed on the surrounding scenery and views.
- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views.

#### **Magnitude of Change**

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a **Moderate**.

##### ***Size or Scale***

The Proposed Development will be partially seen in views across Bluemull Sound, as a large-scale new element with slowly rotating blades, seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm, extending across the hills within the interior of Yell. The turbines will contrast with the soft hues of the moorland hills. Whilst there will be scale differences with Garth Wind Farm, the Garth turbines associate more closely with the smaller scale of the coastal settlement in the foreground whilst the Proposed Development would be read as part of the large scale expansive moorland hills beyond.

##### ***Geographical Extent***

The turbines will extend across a 33° angle of view, introducing change to secondary views from Belmont House. The developed portion of the skyline would increase from a 19° to a 46° angle of view. Views to the internal tracks and other infrastructure would be contained from view. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the opposite direction from the principal direction of views from the settlement which face towards the Wick of Belmont and Bluemull Sound to the south.

#### **Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The *addition* of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any cumulative effects.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in local successive views with Garth Wind Farm.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on visitors which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.53 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 10, Westing, Unst**

<b>Viewpoint 10, Westing, Unst</b>	
5.3.10 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	6.7km to the west
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA E4: Unst Coastal Crofting
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Residents – High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	28 turbines to Hub Height
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located on the minor road at Westing, on Unst, above the properties at Newgord. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on the residents of Westing.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, visible in combined views over 6.3km to the west.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also be visible in combined views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, with partial visibility over 23.6km to the south west.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>The view is located above the northern extent of the Bluemull Sound with panoramic views along the northern edge of Yell and Gloup Holm, and south west to Bluemull Sound. The settlement at Greenbank and the Haa of Houlland is seen along the distant coastal edge of north Yell. The headland at Blue Mull juts into the sound, breaking up the view to the left of the image. The evenly spaced five turbine linear array of Garth Wind Farm is seen to the south west, following the distant profile of Yell.</p>	
<i>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</i>	

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **High** for residents:

**Value – Medium**

- The viewpoint is within the Gloop Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.

**Susceptibility to Change – High**

- Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.
- Orientation of buildings towards the coast and the Proposed Development.

**Magnitude of Change**

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a **Moderate**.

**Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale element in views to the west, extending across the low hills of north Yell, visible on the skyline as slowly rotating vertical elements, contrasting with the horizontal lines of the landscape and coastline. The Proposed Development will be set back from the immediate foreground of the Bluemull Sound, and the turbines are seen to beyond the foreground hills, and within the interior of Yell, with the lower parts of the turbine towers partially screened, emphasising their appearance away from the immediate visual compartment of Bluemull Sound. This effect moderates the scale of change.

**Geographical Extent**

The Proposed Development will extend across a 31° angle of view, seen in the west above the northern area of Bluemull Sound, and forming a prominent new addition to wider views. The internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines will be contained from view.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The *addition* of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any cumulative effects.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect when seen in combined views with Garth and Beaw Field Wind Farms.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on residents, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.54 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 11, Grimster, Whalefirth, Yell**

<p><b>Viewpoint 11, Grimster, Whalefirth</b></p> <p>5.3.11 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm	7.4km to the north
LCA/CCA and Designations	LCA G1: Coastal Edge
Receptor and Sensitivity to Change	Residents – High
Theoretical visibility	5 upper parts of turbine blades
<p><b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b></p> <p>The viewpoint is located at the hamlet at Grimster, above the deep inlet at Whalefirth. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on the residents of Grimster.</p> <p>There are no built or consented wind farm developments influencing the existing baseline.</p>	
<p><b>Description of Existing View</b></p> <p>The view is located above the midpoint of Whalefirth, and looks north along the narrow firth to open Atlantic beyond. The view is framed by the hills at Muckle Swart Houll and the steep firth side slope of the Lee of Vollister. The foreground view looks across the cluster of properties at the Grimster.</p>	
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p> <p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for residents:</p> <p><i>Value – Medium/Low</i></p> <p><i>Susceptibility to Change – High</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.</li> <li>▪ Orientation of buildings along the incised firth.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b></p> <p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Negligible</b>.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>Only five turbine blades will break the skyline to the north west, away from the main focus of the view along Whalefirth.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p>	

The Proposed Development will extend across a 7° angle of view, just breaking the skyline to the north west.
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
There will be no <i>additional</i> or <i>total</i> cumulative effects arising from built, consented or planning stage schemes.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
The combination of the judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Negligible</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Minor</b> effect on residents, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be <b>Not Significant</b> .

**Table 5.55 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 12, Brough Lodge, Fetlar**

<b>Viewpoint 12, Brough Lodge, Fetlar</b>	
5.3.12 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	10km to the north west
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA E3: Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Visitors - High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	29 turbines to Hub Height
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>Brough Lodge GDL is located on the western edge of Fetlar, on the Ness of Brough some 2km south of the Oddsta ferry terminal, approximately 10km to the north west of the Proposed Development. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on visitors to Brough Lodge and the surrounding Garden and Designed Landscape.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, over 8.4km away to the north.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field Wind Farm over 11.8km to the south west.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>The lodge sits on the summit and west-facing slopes of a low hill. The site commands views across the Colgrave Sound to the island of Hascosay to the west, with floating aquaculture development seen to the north of Hascosay. Beyond the view looks into the southern extent of Basta Voe. To the right of the image, the five turbines of Garth Wind Farm are seen as distant</p>	

elements in views to the north, and there are partial views into the Bluemull Sound with settlement at Cullivoe seen beyond.

#### Determination of Visual Sensitivity

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **High** for visitors to Brough Lodge:

##### *Value - High*

- The viewpoint is within the Belmont House Garden and Designed Landscape.
- The viewpoint is within the Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound LLA.

##### *Susceptibility to Change – Medium/High*

- Existing influence of wind farm development at Garth and consented development at Beaw Field.
- Visitors will be focussed on the surrounding scenery and views.
- Relative simplicity of landform with smooth and rounded pastures and expansive coastal views.

#### Magnitude of Change

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a **Moderate**.

##### *Size or Scale*

The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale man-made development within the interior of Yell in views to the north west. The Proposed Development will be viewed in the context of the expansive coastal views, views to the existing Garth Wind Farm and consented Beaw Field Wind Farm and will form a new large-scale element in views to the north west.

##### *Geographical Extent*

The photomontage in Viewpoint 12, Figure 5.3.12 indicates that there will be visibility to all 29 turbines over a 16° angle of view, at 10km.

#### Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

The Viking tip height extension application wind farm will be partially visible as negligible minor element in views. The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on the CCA.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Moderate cumulative effect on visitors when seen in combination with the existing Garth Wind Farm in views to the north west and the consented Beaw Field in successive views to the south.

#### Significance of Effect

The combination of the individual judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on visitors which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.56 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 13, A968 in Mid Yell**

<p><b>Viewpoint 13, A968 in mid Yell</b></p> <p>5.3.13 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
<p><b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b></p>	<p>10.3km to the north west</p>
<p><b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b></p>	<p>LCA B1: Yell Peatlands</p>
<p><b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b></p>	<p>Vehicle Users – Medium</p> <p>Cyclists - High</p>
<p><b>Theoretical visibility</b></p>	<p>13 turbines to Hub Height, 15 turbines to parts of blades</p>
<p><b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b></p>	
<p>The viewpoint is located on the A968 as it passes through the middle point of Yell, to the south east of the Hill of Boubister, at c.50 m AOD. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on road users passing through Yell.</p> <p>There are no built or consented wind farm developments influencing the existing baseline.</p>	
<p><b>Description of Existing View</b></p>	
<p>The view is expansive across the empty moorland hills which are traversed by the A road. The road corridor is followed by timber pole mounted overhead power lines. In the distance to the north west the southern edge of Grimster and the property at Gracefield are visible on the crest of the Hill of Raga. In the distance to the right of the image the development at the southern edge of Whalefirth is seen beside the road, and the mast on the Hill of Camb is faintly visible beyond.</p>	
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p>	
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>Medium</b> for road users and <b>High</b> for Cyclists:</p> <p><i>Value – Medium/Low</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The A968 forms part of National Cycle Route 1.</li> </ul> <p><i>Susceptibility to Change – Medium/High</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor.</li> <li>▪ Cyclists are likely to be using the route for recreation and tourism purposes and will be aware of views to the surrounding landscape.</li> <li>▪ Relative simplicity of landform with expansive views.</li> </ul>	

Magnitude of Change
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Slight</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially seen as a distant element in views to the north east. Only the upper parts of the turbines will be visible beyond the foreground hills, seen against the skyline. The scale of the development will be difficult to discern within the large-scale moorland landscape.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will extend across a 19° angle of view, away from the main focus of views and will be visible for a short section of the route as it passes to the south of the Hill of Boubister.</p>
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects
<p>There will be no <i>additional</i> or <i>total</i> cumulative effects arising from built, consented or planning stage schemes.</p>
Significance of Effect
<p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>Medium</b> and <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Slight</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> effect on road users and a <b>Moderate</b> effect on Cyclists which in the context of this assessment are considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.57 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 14, Wood Wick, Unst**

Viewpoint 14, Wood Wick, Unst	
<p>5.3.14 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm	11km to the south west
LCA/CCA and Designations	LCA E4: Unst Coastal Crofting
Receptor and Sensitivity to Change	Walkers – High
Theoretical visibility	29 turbines to Hub Height
Location and Rationale for Selection	
<p>The viewpoint is located on the cliffs above Wood Wick on the west coast of Unst. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on walkers visiting this remote coastal landscape.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p>	

- Garth Wind Farm over 11.9km to the south.

The following consented development will also influence views once operational:

- Beaw Field Wind Farm over 29.4km to the south.

#### Description of Existing View

Views from Wood Wick are expansive across the northern edge of Bluemull Sound and the exposed Atlantic beyond, with cliffs, geos and sea stacks, set against the backdrop of the low moorland hills beyond. The view is orientated to the distant profile of north Yell and the outlying island at Gloup Holm. Visitors to Wood Wick will experience a range of dramatic coastal panoramic views.

#### Determination of Visual Sensitivity

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **High** for walkers:

**Value – Medium**

**Susceptibility to Change – High**

- Walkers will be engaged in the experience of the landscape, with a strong awareness of their surroundings and an expectation of remoteness in this area.
- Elemental coastal scenery with expansive views with limited visible development.

#### Magnitude of Change

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be **Moderate**.

##### **Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will add slowly moving new man-made vertical elements into the remote landscape/seascape along the distant skyline of north Yell, forming a new focal point within the expansive coastal views.

##### **Geographical Extent**

The Proposed Development will be seen to extend along northern Yell, seen beyond the coastal edge, within the low moorland hills. The turbines will extend across a 20° angle of view, forming a noticeable new addition to views. The internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines will not be visible.

#### Potential for Future Cumulative Effects

The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on walkers.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on walkers when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the south west and Beaw Field in successive views to the south.

#### Significance of Effect

The combination of the judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on walkers, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.58 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 15, B9081, Hill of Reafirth, Yell**

<p><b>Viewpoint 15, B9081, Hill of Reafirth, Yell</b></p> <p>5.3.15 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	11.9km to the north
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA B1: Yell Peatlands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Vehicle Users – Medium
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	29 turbines to Hub Height
<p><b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b></p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the B9081 as it passes through undulating moorland interior of south Yell. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on road users passing through Yell.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm, visible in combined views to the north.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also influence sequential views to the south once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, with partial visibility over 5km to the south.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description of Existing View</b></p> <p>The viewpoint is elevated, in a position to the east of the Hill of Reafirth, at 135 m AOD. The sweeping views are expansive across Mid Yell Voe to the linear settlement at Camb, and beyond to the moorland interior of north Yell. To the right of the view the rising ridgeline of Valla Field is prominent. The B road snakes across the moorland in the foreground towards the settlement at Mid Yell which is partly visible on the edge Mid Yell Voe in middle distance.</p>	
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p> <p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>Medium</b> for road users:</p> <p><i>Value – Medium/Low</i></p> <p><i>Susceptibility to Change – Medium/High</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing views are influenced by renewable energy and aquaculture developments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b></p> <p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Moderate</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen as a new large-scale, element in views to the north, seen within the distant moorland hills of north Yell, contrasting with the subtler hues and textures of the landscape and the horizontal profile of the land forms. The towers of the turbines will be fully visible against the skyline. Sections of the turbine access tracks will be partially visible as faint distant lines across the landscape. The turbines will introduce new man-made vertical elements into the remote landscape and will form a new focal point within the view. However, the long separation distance will reduce the overall influence within this large-scale landscape.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen to extend across a 14.5° angle of view, forming a new focus for views on the approach to Mid Yell. Views of this nature would be experienced from a limited section of the B road.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p> <p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal to the in-planning Viking tip extension application will not result in any cumulative effects.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on this route when seen in combined views with Garth Wind Farm and sequential views to Beaw Field Wind Farm.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p> <p>The combination of the individual judgements of <b>Medium</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> effect on road users which in the context of this assessment are considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.59 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, North Roe**

<p><b>Viewpoint 16, Point of Fethaland, North Roe</b></p> <p>5.3.16 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
<p><b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b></p>	<p>12.5km to the north east</p>
<p><b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b></p>	<p>LCA G1: Coastal Edge</p>
<p><b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b></p>	<p>Walkers – High</p>

<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	29 turbines to Hub Height
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located on the headland at the Point of Fethaland on North Roe. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on walkers visiting this remote coastal landscape.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently very weakly influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm visible to parts of blades only over 16.8km to the east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also weakly influence views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field Wind Farm visible to parts of blades only over 17.2km to the south east.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>The Point of Fethaland is open to 360° panoramic views. The views are dominated by the open Atlantic to the north, Yell Sound to the west, and the distant backdrop of Yell to the north west beyond. The view is orientated to the distant profile of north Yell and the outlying island at Gloup Holm. Hermaness Hill and Saxa Vord are seen in distant profile beyond Yell.</p>	
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>	
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for walkers:</p> <p><i>Value – High</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The viewpoint is within the Fethaland component of the Shetland NSA</li> </ul> <p><i>Susceptibility to Change – High</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walkers will be engaged in the experience of the landscape, with a strong awareness of their surroundings and an expectation of remoteness in this area.</li> <li>▪ Elemental coastal scenery with expansive views with limited visible development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be <b>Moderate</b>.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will add slowly moving new man-made vertical elements into the remote landscape/seascape along the distant profile of north Yell, forming a new focal point within the expansive coastal views.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen to extend along northern Yell, seen within the low moorland hills. The turbines will extend across a 18.5° angle of view, forming a noticeable new addition to views. The internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines will not be visible.</p>	
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>	

The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on walkers.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on walkers when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the east and Beaw Field in successive views to the south east.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on walkers, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.60 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe**

<p><b>Viewpoint 17, Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe</b></p> <p>5.3.17 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	14.7km to the north east
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA E3: Coastal crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Walkers – High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	29 turbines to Hub Height
<p><b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b></p> <p>The viewpoint is located at the scenic Loch of Houllsquey a popular walking route to the east of Isbister on the east Fethaland coast. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on walkers visiting this remote coastal landscape.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently very weakly influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm visible to parts of one blade tip only over 18.4km to the north east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also weakly influence views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field Wind Farm visible to parts of blades only over 14.9km to the south east.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description of Existing View</b></p> <p>The east coast of Fethaland within the vicinity of the viewpoint is enclosed crofting land used for grazing. Views are varied with undulating terrain and frequent framed views to the coastline of Yell Sound, and to Yell beyond. The view is orientated to the distant profile of north Yell seen beyond the headland at the Stuis of Graveland.</p>	
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p>	

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **High** for walkers:

**Value – High**

- The viewpoint is within the Fethaland component of the Shetland NSA

**Susceptibility to Change – High**

- Walkers will be engaged in the experience of the landscape, with a strong awareness of their surroundings and an expectation of relative remoteness in this crofting area.
- Elemental coastal scenery with expansive views with limited visible development.

**Magnitude of Change**

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be **Moderate**.

**Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will add slowly moving new man-made vertical elements into the remote landscape/seascape along the distant profile of north Yell, forming a noticeable new large-scale element within the expansive coastal views.

**Geographical Extent**

The Proposed Development will be seen to extend along northern Yell, seen within the low moorland hills. The turbines will extend across a 16° angle of view. The internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines will not be visible.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on walkers.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on walkers when seen in combination with Garth Wind Farm in views to the north east and Beaw Field in successive views to the south east.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the judgements of **High** sensitivity and a **Moderate** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Major/Moderate** effect on walkers, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be **Significant**.

**Table 5.61 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill, Unst**

**Viewpoint 18, Hermaness Hill, Unst**

5.3.18 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.

<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	17.3km to the north east
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA A4: Unst Uplands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Walkers – High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	29 turbines to Hub Height
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located at the summit of Hermaness Hill, within the Hermaness National Nature Reserve, at the northern point of Unst. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on walkers visiting this remote coastal landscape.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently very weakly influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth Wind Farm visible to parts of one blade tip only over 18.4km to the north east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also very weakly influence views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field Wind Farm over 14.9km to the south.</li> <li>▪ Viking over 57.9km to the south.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>The view looks south west across the upland moors of northern Unst and the dramatic cliffs and headland at Tonga on Unst's west coast, and beyond to the Atlantic coastline and distant profile of north Yell.</p>	
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>	
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for walkers:</p> <p><b>Value – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The viewpoint is within the Herma Ness component of the Shetland NSA</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walkers will be engaged in the experience of the landscape, with a strong awareness of their surroundings and an expectation of remoteness.</li> <li>▪ Elemental coastal scenery with expansive views with limited visible development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be <b>Slight</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will add slowly moving new man-made vertical elements into the remote landscape/seascape along the distant profile of north Yell, forming a distant but noticeable new large-scale element within the expansive coastal views.</p> <p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p>	

The Proposed Development will be seen to extend across northern Yell, faintly seen in the distance across the profile of Yell. The turbines will extend across a 13° angle of view. The internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines will not be visible.
<b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b>
The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on walkers.  The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on walkers when seen in combination with Garth, Beaw Field and Viking Wind Farms in views to the south and with the Viking variation should this be consented.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
The combination of the judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Slight</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> effect on walkers, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Not Significant</b> .

**Table 5.62 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 19, Burra Voe, A970, North Roe**

<b>Viewpoint 19, Burra Voe, A970, North Roe</b>	
5.3.19 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.	
<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	17.4km to the north east
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA F5: Scattered Settlement/ Crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Residents – High Road Users - Medium
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	23 turbines to hub height, 4 turbines parts of turbine blades
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
The viewpoint is located at the southern edge of the settlement at North Roe, looking across the enclosed bay at Burra Voe. It has been selected to illustrate the local effects on the residents at the southern edge of Burra Voe and motorists on the A970.  There are no built or consented wind farm developments influencing the existing baseline.	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
The view is located at the southern edge of Burra Voe beside the A970. The view looks across the well contained bay at Burra Voe, framed by the headland at the Ness of Burra Voe along its	

<p>northern edge. The Ness of Houlland rises on the southern edge of Burra Voe and frames the view beyond to Yell Sound and the distant profile of Yell. The North Holm of Burravoe and the South Holm of Burravoe are seen at the entrance to the bay. The foreground view looks across the gravel bar at the mouth of the Ure Water.</p>
<p><b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b></p>
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for residents and <b>Medium</b> for motorists:</p> <p><i>Value – Medium/Low</i></p> <p><i>Susceptibility to Change – High</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents are highly likely to be aware of any changes to their existing visual amenity.</li> <li>▪ Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor.</li> <li>▪ Orientation of houses at the southern extent of the bay towards Burra Voe.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b></p>
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be a <b>Slight</b>.</p> <p><i>Size or Scale</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially seen as a distant new large-scale development, seen within a framed view beyond Burra Voe.</p> <p><i>Geographical Extent</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development will extend across a 13° angle of view. The main focus for local views will be to Burra Voe and the scattered settlement however, the Proposed Development will be seen in secondary views to the wider landscape/seascape.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p>
<p>There will be no <i>additional</i> or <i>total</i> cumulative effects arising from built, consented or planning stage schemes.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>
<p>The combination of the judgements of <b>High</b> and <b>Medium</b> sensitivity and a <b>Slight</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Moderate</b> effect on residents and <b>Moderate/Minor</b> effects on motorists, which in the context of this assessment are considered to be <b>Not Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.63 - Operational Effects at Viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, North Roe, Mainland**

<p><b>Viewpoint 20, Ronas Hill, North Roe, Mainland</b></p> <p>5.3.20 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>
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<b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b>	25.2km to the north east
<b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b>	LCA A3: Major Uplands, Ronas Hill
<b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b>	Walkers – High
<b>Theoretical visibility</b>	29 turbines to Hub Height
<b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b>	
<p>The viewpoint is located at the summit of Ronas Hill, at 450m AOD, on North Roe. It was selected to illustrate the effects on walkers visiting this remote upland landscape.</p> <p>The following wind farm development currently very weakly influences the existing baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Garth: visible as parts of one blade tip only, over 28.6km away to the north east.</li> </ul> <p>The following consented development will also weakly influence views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field, over 19.9km away to the south east.</li> <li>▪ Viking (consented and tip extension) over 24.4km away, to the south.</li> </ul>	
<b>Description of Existing View</b>	
<p>The view looks north east across the rock strewn mountain plateau, and beyond to the extensive moors of North Roe. The view encompasses the northern extent of Yell Sound to the right and the open Atlantic to the north. The coastline of Yell defines the eastern edge of Yell Sound, with the northern tip of Yell at North Neaps seen in front of the distant profile of Hermaness Hill and Saxa Vord on Unst.</p>	
<b>Determination of Visual Sensitivity</b>	
<p>The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be <b>High</b> for walkers:</p> <p><b>Value – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The viewpoint is within Ronas Hill LLA and Ronas Hill and North Roe Wild Land Area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Susceptibility to Change – High</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walkers will be engaged in the experience of the landscape, with a strong awareness of their surroundings and an expectation of remoteness; and</li> <li>▪ Dramatic scenery with expansive views with limited visible development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	
<p>The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be <b>Moderate</b>.</p> <p><b>Size or Scale</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will add slowly moving new man-made vertical elements into the remote landscape/seascape along the distant profile of north Yell, forming a distant but contrasting and noticeable new large-scale element within the expansive views.</p>	

<p><b>Geographical Extent</b></p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen to extend across northern Yell. The turbines will extend across a 9.5° angle of view. The internal tracks and other infrastructure associated with the turbines will not be visible.</p>
<p><b>Potential for Future Cumulative Effects</b></p> <p>The <i>addition</i> of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on walkers.</p> <p>The <i>total</i> cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Negligible cumulative effect on walkers when seen in combination with Garth, Beaw Field and Viking Wind Farms in views to the south, and with the Viking variation should this be consented.</p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p> <p>The combination of the judgements of <b>High</b> sensitivity and a <b>Moderate</b> magnitude of change are considered to result in a <b>Major/Moderate</b> effect on walkers, which in the context of this assessment is considered to be <b>Significant</b>.</p>

**Table 5.64: Operational Effects at Viewpoint 21, A968 Hill of Swinster, Mainland**

<p><b>Viewpoint 21, A968 Hill of Swinster</b></p> <p>5.3.21 shows: a) the viewpoint location; b) 90° existing view and a wireframe of the Proposed Development (including any other built/ consented windfarms within the view); c) a 53.5° panoramic wireframe of the Proposed Development and d) a 53.5° panoramic photomontage of the Proposed Development.</p>	
<p><b>Distance and Direction to Yell Wind Farm</b></p>	<p>27.7km to the north</p>
<p><b>LCA/CCA and Designations</b></p>	<p>LCA A2: Major Uplands – East and West Kames</p>
<p><b>Receptor and Sensitivity to Change</b></p>	<p>Vehicle Users – Medium</p> <p>Cyclists - High</p>
<p><b>Theoretical visibility</b></p>	<p>16 turbines to Hub Height, 13 turbines to parts of blades</p>
<p><b>Location and Rationale for Selection</b></p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the A968 at the Hill of Swinster, at c.100m AOD. It has been selected to illustrate the effects on road users passing through Mainland, on the approach to the ferry terminal at Toft.</p> <p>There are no built wind farm developments influencing the existing baseline.</p> <p>The following consented development will also influence views once operational:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Beaw Field Wind Farm, over 11km to the north east.</li> </ul>	

- Viking, over 11km to the south.

**Description of Existing View**

The road passes through a coll at the Hill of Swinster, revealing expansive views across the foreground rolling hills of Mainland and beyond to Yell Sound and the distant profile of North Roe to the left of the image and the southern extent of Yell to the right of the image. The settlement at Midlea/Southlee is seen in the middle ground within Firths Voe. The scattered settlement along the western coastline of Yell is seen in the distance, above Yell Sound.

**Determination of Visual Sensitivity**

The sensitivity to change associated with the Proposed Development at this location is considered to be **Medium** for road users and **High** for Cyclists:

**Value – Medium/Low**

- The A968 forms part of National Cycle Route 1.

**Susceptibility to Change – Medium/High**

- Motorists travelling through or past the landscape on roads will focus on the route corridor.
- Cyclists are likely to be using the route for recreation and tourism purposes and will be aware of views to the surrounding landscape.
- Relative simplicity of landform with expansive views.

**Magnitude of Change**

The overall magnitude of change on receptors at this viewpoint will be **Negligible**.

**Size or Scale**

The Proposed Development will be partially seen as a distant element in views to the north east. Only the hubs and towers of the eastern turbines will be visible beyond the foreground hills, seen against the skyline. The scale of the development will be difficult to discern within the expansive view.

**Geographical Extent**

The Proposed Development will extend across a 7.5° angle of view, away from the main focus of views and will be visible for a short section of the route as it passes through the col at the Hill of Swinster.

**Potential for Future Cumulative Effects**

The *addition* of the proposal in the context of potential future cumulative schemes will not result in significant cumulative effects on road users or cyclists.

The *total* cumulative effect of built consented and planning stage schemes will contribute to a Slight cumulative effect on road users when seen in combination with Garth, Beaw Field and Viking Wind Farms in successive views to the south or with the Viking variation should this be consented.

**Significance of Effect**

The combination of the individual judgements of **Medium** and **High** sensitivity and a **Negligible** magnitude of change are considered to result in a **Minor** effect on road users and a **Moderate/Minor** effect on Cyclists which in the context of this assessment are considered to be **Not Significant**.

#### Summary of Effects on Viewpoints

5.6.97 Table 5.65 lists and summarises effects on the viewpoints assessed above. It sets out their sensitivity to change, the magnitude of change that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development, and the level of resultant effects and their significance.

**Table 5.65 - Summary of Effects on Viewpoints**

<b>Viewpoint</b>	<b>Receptor and Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Significance</b>
1. Tittyans Hill, Yell	Walkers – High Crofters – Medium	Substantial	Walkers – Major Crofters – Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
2. Fishermen's Memorial, Gloup	Residents/ Walkers/ Visitors – High Crofters – Medium	Substantial	Residents / Walkers / Visitors – Major Crofters – Major/Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
3. Haa of Houlland	Residents – High	Moderate	Major/ Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
4. Cullivoe	Residents/ Visitors – High	Moderate	Major/ Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
5. Sands of Breckon	Visitors/ Walkers - High	Moderate	Major/ Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
6. A968 / NCR1 Colvister	Road Users - Medium Cyclists – High	Substantial	Road Users - Major / Moderate Cyclists - Major	<b>Significant</b>
7. Cunnister, Basta Voe	Residents – High	Substantial	Major	<b>Significant</b>
8. Nev of Stuis, Yell	Walkers - High	Substantial	Major	<b>Significant</b>
9. Belmont House, Unst	Visitors – High	Moderate	Major/ Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
10. Westing, Unst	Residents – High	Moderate	Major/ Moderate	<b>Significant</b>

Viewpoint	Receptor and Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
11. Grimster, Whale Firth, Yell	Residents – High	Negligible	Minor	Not Significant
12. Brough Lodge, Fetlar	Visitors – High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
13. A968 / NCR1, middle Yell	Road Users – Medium Cyclists - High	Slight	Road Users – Moderate/Minor Cyclists – Moderate	Not significant
14. Wood Wick, Unst	Walkers – High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
15. B9081, Hill of Reafirth	Road Users - Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Not Significant
16. Point of Fethaland, North Roe	Walkers – High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
17. Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe	Walkers – High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
18. Hermaness Hill	Walkers – High	Slight	Moderate	Not Significant
19. Settlement at Burra Voe, A970, North Roe	Residents - High Road Users - Medium	Slight	Residents - Moderate Road Users – Moderate/Minor	Not Significant
20. Ronas Hill	Walkers – High	Moderate	Major/ Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
21. A968 / NCR 1 Hill of Swinster	Road Users – Medium Cyclists – High	Negligible	Road Users – Minor Cyclists – Moderate/ Minor	Not Significant

## 5.7 Assessment of Night-Time Lighting Effects at the Operational Stage

- 5.7.1 The following section provides a summary of the detailed Night Time lighting Assessment which is set out in Appendix 5.5
- 5.7.2 The UK Air Navigation Order (ANO) 2019, Article 219, sets out the statutory requirement for the lighting on en-route obstacles, which applies to structures 150m or more above ground level. This article has been translated into the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) Policy Statement on the lighting

of onshore wind turbines (June 2017). For turbines of 150m height to tip or more, medium intensity (2000 candela) steady red warning lights should be mounted as close as possible to the top of all structures, which in practice is on the turbine hubs. Additionally, at least three low-intensity (32 candela) lights should be provided at an intermediate level of half the nacelle height.

- 5.7.3 Light pollution is a recognised problem in the UK, with wind turbine lighting potentially contributing to an adverse effect on peoples' views, including their enjoyment of the night skies. SNH has noted the need to be cautious when proposing lighting in the UK's darker, more sensitive landscapes, and considered a range of potential mitigation solutions including radar activated lighting.
- 5.7.4 The need for lighting within a wind farm is typically decided during the consultation stage of a planning application, based on views from the CAA, Ministry of Defence (MOD) and local aerodromes. Turbines below 150m are not routinely lit, but where lighting is required, wind farm developers usually seek to agree on the use of infra-red lighting in the interests of public amenity, this being barely perceptible to the human eye. Radar activated lighting is also being investigated.
- 5.7.5 It should be noted that the CAA are planning to issue a new policy document to define the requirement and usage of radar activated lights. It is anticipated that an automated system will be installed that will ensure that the lights are turned on when an aircraft approaches a wind farm below a specific height and within a certain distance, reducing the amount of time the lights were illuminated by a very significant percentage.
- 5.7.6 Unless the use of infra-red or radar activated lighting can be agreed for the purpose of aviation safety, to reduce or remove the effects of lighting of the turbines on their hubs at night, then the proposed lights will extend visibility of the Proposed Development into hours of darkness.
- 5.7.7 The baseline environment of Shetland and of the site is generally dark and relatively light free at night, with the only lighting being associated with settlements and residential properties, lighting around the ferry terminals and piers (e.g. at Cullivoe), and infrastructure such as fish farms. Lighting on vehicles on roads, and on ferries at night, as well as on channel or hazard marker buoys in the sea between the islands also influences the night sky. Relative to the rest of the UK however, Shetland is characterised by very dark skies.
- 5.7.8 The following figures are provided to illustrate the effects of lighting from representative viewpoints:
- Night Time Lighting Viewpoint 1: (Viewpoint 4) Haa of Houlland
    - **Figure 5.7.1a:** Haa of Houlland – Night Time Lighting Viewpoint Location Plan
    - **Figure 5.7.1b:** Haa of Houlland – 90° Existing View (Daytime) and 90° Predicted Wireframe View (Cylindrical)
    - **Figure 5.7.1c:** Haa of Houlland – Low Light - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
    - **Figure 5.7.1d:** Haa of Houlland – Dusk - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
    - **Figure 5.7.1e:** Haa of Houlland – Darkness - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
  - Night Time Lighting Viewpoint 2: (Viewpoint 8) Cunnister
    - **Figure 5.7.2a:** Cunnister – Night Time Lighting Viewpoint Location Plan
    - **Figure 5.7.2b:** Cunnister – 90° Existing View (Daytime) and 90° Predicted Wireframe View (Cylindrical)
    - **Figure 5.7.2c:** Cunnister – Low Light - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
    - **Figure 5.7.2d:** Cunnister – Dusk - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
    - **Figure 5.7.2e:** Cunnister – Darkness - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
  - Night Time Lighting Viewpoint 3: (Viewpoint 10) Westing
    - **Figure 5.7.3a:** Westing – Night Time Lighting Viewpoint Location Plan

- **Figure 5.7.3b:** Westing – 90° Existing View (Daytime) and 90° Predicted Wireframe View (Cylindrical)
- **Figure 5.7.3c:** Westing – Low Light - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
- **Figure 5.7.3d:** Westing – Dusk - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)
- **Figure 5.7.3e:** Westing – Darkness - 53.5° Predicted Photomontage View (Planar)

5.7.9 In summary **Substantial** or **Moderate** Magnitudes of Change were identified at each of the settlements, which are of **High** sensitivity to change, giving rise to **Major** and **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** Effects. The individual assessment from each of these representative locations is provided in **Appendix 5.5**.

5.7.10 The lights, fixed to the top of the nacelle and half way up the towers will be seen in clear conditions over long distances. If required, they will be seen from all locations indicated on the hub height ZTV, up to distances of around 20km

5.7.11 Shetland has long hours of daylight in the summer months, when the effects of aviation safety lighting at hub height on the turbines will be minimal, but long hours of darkness in winter when the effects would extend over longer durations. In Shetland in winter at this latitude it can be dark from 3pm through to 9am, which includes times when people will be active and able to be affected by the proposed lighting.

5.7.12 As such, the effects of lighting on night time views will be **Significant**, particularly in closer views and where the sense of the lights appearing to flash will be apparent. It will be **Significant** during hours of darkness at all locations within approximately 15-20km where the hubs of the proposed turbines are seen, as described in the tables earlier in this Chapter.

5.7.13 The effect will be more noticeable and **Significant** in winter months, when people are active during hours of darkness. In summer months however, when the islands are typically more populated with tourists and more people will be outside, most people will be asleep during the very short hours of darkness at this latitude, and the effect of the lighting will **Not be Significant**. Between these two extremes, the duration and thus level of significance of effects will gradually increase then taper off again.

## 5.8 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

5.8.1 The following section provides a summary of the detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment which is set out in **Appendix 5.6**.

5.8.2 Residential receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in terms of their visual amenity. It is recognised that changes in their views resulting from the presence of wind turbines at close proximities will inevitably give rise to significant visual impacts in the context of the EIA Regulations. Effects of significance are not unexpected.

5.8.3 The purpose of this study was to explore the nature of these effects in more detail, and examine whether the RVAA Threshold had been breached.

5.8.4 The assessment concludes that, at none of the properties assessed will residents experience impacts on the visual component of residential amenity or living conditions from the Proposed Development which will affect *“the outlook of these residents to such an extent, i.e. be so unpleasant, overwhelming and oppressive that, the property would become an unattractive place to live.”*

5.8.5 It is concluded that the potential relationship between residential properties in proximity to the Proposed Development is appropriate and will not give rise to adverse effects of Residential Visual Amenity.

## 5.9 Cumulative Assessment

5.9.1 The existing and proposed wind farms are shown on the following Figures:

- Site Location Plans:

- **Figure 5.4.1:** Cumulative Wind Farm Site Location Plan (60 km)
  - **Figure 5.4.2:** Cumulative Wind Farm Site Location Plan (40 km)
  - **Figure 5.5.1:** Yell with all Built and Consented Sites (40 km)
  - **Figure 5.5.1:** Yell with all Built and Consented Sites and Sites in Planning (Viking tip extension) (40 km)
  - Cumulative Viewpoint 1: (Viewpoint 12) Brough Lodge, Fetlar
    - **Figure 5.6.1a:** Cumulative Viewpoint Location Plan
    - **Figure 5.6.1b:** View North and view South
    - **Figure 5.6.1c:** View East and View West
  - Cumulative Viewpoint 2: (Viewpoint 15) B9081, Hill of Reafirth
    - **Figure 5.6.2a:** Cumulative Viewpoint Location Plan
    - **Figure 5.6.2b:** View North and view South
    - **Figure 5.6.2c:** View East and View West
  - Cumulative Viewpoint 3: (Viewpoint 18) Hermaness Hill
    - **Figure 5.6.3a:** Cumulative Viewpoint Location Plan
    - **Figure 5.6.3b:** View North and view South
    - **Figure 5.6.3c:** View East and View West
  - Cumulative Viewpoint 4: (Viewpoint 21) A968 Hill of Swinster
    - **Figure 5.6.4a:** Cumulative Viewpoint Location Plan
    - **Figure 5.6.4b:** View North and view South
    - **Figure 5.6.4c:** View East and View West.
- 5.9.2 The cumulative assessment is incorporated into the main LVIA, with separate judgements as the cumulative effects being presented within each of the tables throughout, for each landscape and visual receptor. The reason for this is that the key cumulative wind farms of relevance to this assessment are either built (Garth Wind Farm, c.2km to the east of the nearest turbine) or consented (Beaw Field, c.17km to the south of the nearest turbine), and have therefore been considered as part of the baseline for the assessment. This section therefore summarises the key issues, informed by the analysis and assessment which has already been presented.
- 5.9.3 All other wind farms are located at considerable distance from the Proposed Development site, with Viking being consented over 35km to the south on Mainland, and also being subject to an application for a tip height extension, and Gremista and Mossy Hill being proposed over 55km away to the south, again on Mainland. Whilst people travelling the length of the Shetland Islands, by car and boat, would see one wind farm, then the next sequentially as part of a long journey, the distance between the wind farms and travel time from the south of Shetland to the north is considerable, for example it would take around 1.5 hours to travel the 55.5 km between Gremista beside Luggies Knowe Wind Farm to Burravoe near Beaw Field Wind Farm. With the exception of Garth and Beaw Field (considered separately below), the wind farms would not be seen as associated developments. Except where noted, they would not interact with one another to a significant degree, with no more than one notably affecting the experience of landscape or views from any one place, or stretch of road or ferry journey. Again, with the exception of Garth and Beaw Fields, the existing and proposed wind farms would lie too far apart to enable a comparison to be made between differing turbine heights or types.

- 5.9.4 Garth Wind Farm lies within the same landscape character area (Yell Peatlands LCA), and comprises five relatively small turbines aligned in a north to south row, 67m high to tip. At its closest, it is some 2km to the east of the Proposed Development. The turbines are located on land which looks over the Bluemull Sound. Visual receptors between Garth Wind Farm and the Proposed Development will see a smaller existing wind farm to their east, and a larger development to their west, for example at Viewpoint 1, Tittynans Hill, Yell, which is located between the two wind farms. People to the south will also experience the wind farms as two separate developments for example at Viewpoint 15, B9081, Hill of Reafirth, where the difference in size will be perceptible, leading to Garth Wind Farm appearing further away, and where Beaw Field Wind Farm will also be seen appearing a similar size to the Proposed Development, looking to the south. The latter is one of the main locations on Yell where successive views of Beaw Field and the Proposed Development will be seen, looking in opposite directions. People to the east on Unst will see Garth Wind Farm in front of the Proposed Development, with the effects of perspective reducing the perception of the difference in size.
- 5.9.5 Beaw Field Wind Farm is consented within the same landscape character area (Yell Peatlands LCA), and will comprise 17 relatively large turbines in a north west to south east orientated cluster in a north to south row, 145m high to tip. At its closest, it is some 17km to the south of the Proposed Development. Visual receptors located between Beaw Field Wind Farm and the Proposed Development will see Beaw Field Wind Farm to their south, and a similar sized wind farm to the north, for example people at Viewpoint 15, B9081, Hill of Reafirth to the south, where the difference in size is not perceptible, and where the much smaller Garth Wind Farm will also be seen, looking to the north. The latter is one of the main locations on Yell where successive views of Beaw Field and the Proposed Development will be seen, looking in opposite directions. People to the east on Unst will see Beaw Field Wind Farm as well as the Proposed Development, looking in different directions. This cumulative effect is described in Table 5.58 and illustrated in Figure 5.6.2.
- 5.9.6 In conclusion, the key consideration in terms of cumulative effects is Garth Wind Farm which lies 2km to the east of the Proposed Development, within the same landscape character type: the Yell Peatlands, which already have some association with wind farm development, and which the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development in the Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009) recognises as having some capacity for this type of development. Some cumulative visual effects will occur, particularly where both wind farms are seen at relatively close distances in combined views (i.e. when a viewer will see both wind farms in the same field of view). The size, scale and layout design of the wind farms will be contrasting and it will remain clear that these are two separate developments, rather than an amalgamation of wind turbines of different heights. There will also be some locations where the Proposed Development will be seen in combined or successive views with Beaw Field Wind Farm, although as this is separated from the Proposed Development by over 17km the incidences will be less frequent. Beaw Field Wind Farm and the Proposed Development will appear similar (a relatively large group of large scale three bladed modern wind turbines) and a direct comparison between turbine size will not be possible at 17km.

## 5.10 Mitigation

Mitigation of landscape and visual effects is embedded in the design of the layout for the Proposed Development and the turbine height and colour which is to be used, as detailed in **Chapter 2** (Site Selection and Design Iteration). Additional measures are detailed in **Appendix 7.7** (Habitat Management Plan) and **Appendix 10.3** (Peat Management Plan). These measures will help protect, manage and restore the landscape and habitats during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Further mitigation may be achieved through the use of radar activated or infra-red lighting, reducing or removing the need for visible lighting of the turbines at hub height at night, and therefore removing visibility of the Proposed Development during hours of darkness. Agreement of this will be sought with the CAA, MOD and local aerodromes, as detailed in **Chapter 13** (Aviation and Radar).

## 5.11 Assessment of Effects at Decommissioning and Post-Operational Stages

- 5.11.1 The decommissioning of the Proposed Development and the extent of restoration works will be agreed with SIC in consultation with appropriate statutory bodies.
- 5.11.2 At the end of the 30-year operational lifetime of the Proposed Development, the turbines and other structures will be removed, and the landscape and application site would be returned to their present condition. Decommissioning is expected to be shorter than the construction phase, with the dismantling of all above-ground structures and the reinstatement of disturbed ground taking around 12 months; however, below-ground structures are likely to be left in place to avoid further disturbance (with the exception of the top metre of the foundation base of each turbine). There will therefore be a temporary effect from the activities on the application site to remove structures, but this will be of relatively short duration. Some evidence of the past presence of Yell Wind Farm will remain visible in short-range views during the post-decommissioning restoration period. Over the short-to-medium term the application site will be returned to rough grazing uses, with the only structures remaining onsite being underground ones.
- 5.11.3 Accordingly, the decommissioning and post-operational phases are considered to have a short-term effect on the landscape and visual amenity of the locality, similar but less substantial than those effects described for the construction phase. This will be Not Significant.

## 5.12 Summary

- 5.12.1 A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken for the Proposed Development. It sets out effects on the landscape, which in the context of Shetland and this assessment also includes effects on the coastal character and on seascape.
- 5.12.2 The assessment includes consideration of effects upon designated landscapes including the Shetland National Scenic Area and other locally designated landscapes such the draft Local Landscape Areas.
- 5.12.3 From a visual perspective, the assessment considers effects upon residents at settlements, users of roads, ferries and recreational routes, which include tourists. This was informed by assessment of visual effects at a series of representative viewpoints, which were agreed with SNH and the Council. A detailed residential visual amenity assessment is also included as at **Appendix 5.6**.
- 5.12.4 The assessment of cumulative effects is incorporated into the main assessment of landscape and visual effects as the key other wind farms with which interaction will occur as built sites which exist as part of the baseline (Garth Wind Farm, 2km from the Proposed Development) or are consented (Beaw Field Wind Farm, 17km to the south of the Proposed Development). Some cumulative interactions will occur, with Garth Wind Farm and the Proposed Development appearing as separate, contrasting wind farms.
- 5.12.5 The turbines will need to be lighted at night for reasons of aviation safety. Attempts are being made across the UK to obtain approval for use of radar activated lights which will mean that lighting only needs to come on when required. If this technology is not approved, then red lights positioned at hub height and half way up the towers will be required and will extend visual effects into hours of darkness, extending up to some 20km. These are constant lights but will appear to flash when blades pass in front of them.
- 5.12.6 Whilst it is always necessary to take account and to balance the wide range of technical and environmental requirements, it is also a requirement to seek to optimise the layout design and choice of turbine from a landscape and visual perspective, in order to achieve mitigation which is embedded into the project design. Landscape and visual input into the wind farm design has been provided through the design development stages of the project, through a series of design workshops. Other mitigation to be adopted throughout construction, operation and decommissioning will be delivered through the Habitat Management Plan (refer to **Appendix 7.7**).

5.12.7 Significant landscape and visual effects are to be expected for any commercial scale wind farm, and this is no exception. A number of significant effects are predicted including significant landscape effects on the landscape character of the site and its surroundings, visual effects on residents at settlements and tourists including recreational walkers, as detailed in the summary table below.

5.12.8 However, the large scale open landscape of Yell is considered to have attributes which are suited to wind farm development, as recognised in the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development in the Shetland Islands (LUC, March 2009). The Proposed Development is focussed away from the scattered settlement and coastal crofting land within the expansive landscape of the interior which has a simple landform and an absence of development. This is a remote landscape with a simple landform. Whilst the effects will be significant locally to the site, and for some visual receptors in relatively distant views from the site, it is considered that these can be accommodated in this open windswept upland moorland landscape.

**Table 5.66 - Summary of Residual Landscape and Visual Effects**

<b>Summary of Residual Effects</b>	
<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Nature of Effect</b>
<b>Operational Landscape Effects</b>	
LCA A3 Ronas Hill	Moderate, Not Significant
LCA A4 Unst Uplands	Locally <b>Major/Moderate</b> from Valla Field, Significant Elsewhere no greater than Moderate, Not Significant
LCA B1 Yell Peatland	<b>Major/Moderate</b> within 3km, Significant Moderate within 3-5km, Not Significant Elsewhere no greater than Moderate/Minor, Not Significant
LCA E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant Elsewhere no greater than Moderate, Not Significant
LCA E4 Unst Coastal Crofting	Moderate, Not Significant
LCA G1 Coastal Edge	Moderate, Not Significant
CCA 12, Bluemull Sound	Moderate, Not Significant Elsewhere no greater then Minor, Not Significant
CCA 14, Colgrave Sound	Moderate, Not Significant
CCA 18, Gloup Breckon	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
CCA 19, Hermaness	<b>Major/Moderate</b> locally south of Wood Wick, Significant Elsewhere Minor, Not Significant

CCA 21, Whalefirth	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Not Significant
CCA 24, North Roe Coast	Locally Moderate from the Point of Fethaland and North West Roe, Not Significant  Elsewhere no greater than Minor, Not Significant
CCA 27, Yell Sound	Moderate from the north western extent of the CCA, Not Significant  Minor or None Elsewhere, Not Significant
Hermaness NSA	The overall special qualities and integrity of the sub-unit of the NSA will not be altered by the Proposed Development
Fethaland NSA	The overall special qualities and integrity of the sub-unit of the NSA will not be altered by the Proposed Development
Ronas Hill, LLA	The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.
Wick of Tresta, Fetlar, LLA	The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.
Colvadale and Muness, Unst, LLA	The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.
Haroldswick and Skaw, LLA	The key characteristics of the LLA will not be altered by the Proposed Development.
Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound, LLA	The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be locally altered by the Proposed Development between North Neaps and Whale Firth with a reduction in the scenic qualities of the LLA.
West Sandwick to Gloup Holm, Yell, LLA	The key characteristics and integrity of the LLA will be locally altered by the Proposed Development between Breckon and Gloup Voe with a reduction in the scenic qualities of the LLA.
Belmont House, GDL	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
Brough Lodge, GDL	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
<b>Operational Visual Effects - Settlements</b>	
<b>Southern Cluster:</b> Sellafirth; Cunnister.	<b>Major</b> , Significant
<b>Eastern Cluster:</b> Stronganess; Cullivoe; Greenbank.	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
<b>North Eastern Cluster:</b> Haa of Houlland; Midbrake; North and South Brough; Breckon.	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant

<b>Northern Cluster:</b> Gloup; The Kirks	<b>Major</b> , Significant
<b>Belmont</b>	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
<b>Westing Cluster:</b> Burragarth; Underhoull; Houllnan; Westing; Newgord.	<b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
<b>Mid Yell</b>	Moderate, Not Significant
<b>Burra Voe</b>	Moderate, Not Significant
<b>Operational Visual Effects – Viewpoints</b>	
1. Tittyans Hill, Yell	Walkers – <b>Major</b> , Significant Crofters – <b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
2. Fishermen's Memorial, Gloup	Residents / Walkers / Visitors – <b>Major</b> , Significant Crofters – <b>Major/Moderate</b> , Significant
3. Haa of Houlland	Residents, <b>Major/ Moderate</b> , Significant
4. Cullivoe	Residents, <b>Major/ Moderate</b> , Significant
5. Sands of Breckon	Visitors, <b>Major/ Moderate</b> , Significant
6. A968 / NCR1 Colvister	Road Users - <b>Major / Moderate</b> , Significant Cyclists - <b>Major</b> , Significant
7. Cunnister, Basta Voe	Residents, <b>Major</b> , Significant
8. Nev of Stuis, Yell	Walkers, <b>Major</b> , Significant
9. Belmont House, Unst	Visitors, <b>Major/ Moderate</b> , Significant
10. Westing, Unst	Residents, <b>Major/ Moderate</b> , Significant
11. Grimster, Whale Firth, Yell	Residents, Minor, Not Significant
12. Brough Lodge, Fetlar	Visitors, <b>Major / Moderate</b> , Significant
13. A968 / NCR1, middle Yell	Road Users – Moderate/Minor, Not Significant Cyclists – Moderate, Not Significant
14. Wood Wick, Unst	Walkers, <b>Major / Moderate</b> , Significant
15. B9081, Hill of Reafirth	Road Users, Moderate, Not Significant

16. Point of Fethaland, North Roe	Walkers, <b>Major / Moderate</b> , Significant
17. Loch of Houllsquey, North Roe	Walkers, <b>Major / Moderate</b> , Significant
18. Hermaness Hill	Walkers, Moderate, Not Significant
19. Settlement at Burra Voe, A970, North Roe	Residents - Moderate, Not Significant Road Users – Moderate/Minor, Not Significant
20. Ronas Hill	Major/ Moderate
21. A968 / NCR 1 Hill of Swinster	Road Users – Minor, Not Significant Cyclists – Moderate/ Minor, Not Significant

## 5.13 References

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