

# Appendix 5.2 Landscape Character Areas

## Contents

Introduction	1
Landscape Character Areas within 20km	2
Landscape Character Area Descriptions	3
References	19

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# Appendix 5.2 Landscape Character Areas within the 40km study area

## ***Introduction***

Using accepted, systematic methods of landscape character assessment, the surrounding landscape has been subdivided into different landscape character areas, each with a distinctive character based upon local patterns of geology, land form, land use, cultural and ecological features. These provide baseline information which 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.

Within the 40km study area, the relevant landscape character assessment is the SNH Commissioned Report: No. 93: A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Islands, Gillespies (1998).

This study provides an assessment of the landscape character of the area, and considers the likely pressures and opportunities for change in the landscape. The twenty Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) which fall within the 40km radius study area are illustrated in **Figure 5.1.3** and listed below:

### Major Uplands Landscape Type

- A2 East and West Kames
- A3 Ronas Hill
- A4 Unst Uplands

### Peatland and Moorland Landscape Type

- B1 Yell Peatland
- B2 Rounded Moorland Hills
- B3 Unst and Fetlar Rocky Heathland
- B5 Eshaness and Papa Stour Maritime Heathland

### Undulating Moorland with Lochs Landscape Type

- C1 West Mainland and Northmavine Muckle Roe and Mangaster / Nibbon Area
- C2 Uyea, Braewick, Tingon and North Roe
- C3 Lunna Ness and Dragon Ness

### Inland Valleys Landscape Type

- D2 Crofting and Grazing Inland Valleys, Cuckron
- D3 Crofting and Grazing Isolated Valleys, Cuckron
- D4 Peatland and Moorland Inland Valley

### Farmed and Settled Lowland and Coast Landscape Type

- E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands
- E4 Unst and West Mainland Coastal Crofting

### Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds Landscape Type

- F1 Developed Areas

- F2 Nucleated Settlements
- F4 Unst and Fetlar Crofting and Grassland
- F5 Scattered Settlement / Crofting and Grazing Lands

#### Coastal Edge Landscape Type

- G1 Coastal Edge

### **Landscape Character Areas within 20km**

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, the Proposed Development would be seen as a relatively 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. Although there may be some effects on landscape character beyond a 20km radius from the site, these would not be significant and, in this regard, LCAs beyond 20km from the application site have not been assessed further. LCAs within a 20km radius of the Proposed Development have been reviewed in detail, and provide an appropriate basis to describe the landscape character of the area surrounding the Proposed Development.

#### **Landscape Sensitivity**

Shetland Islands Council commissioned the following document which provides a sensitivity study for each of the Landscape Character Areas in Shetland: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands, LUC 2009.

The approach taken in this study draws on the current thinking on techniques and criteria for judging landscape sensitivity and capacity, as documented in Topic Paper 6 by Scottish Natural Heritage and The Countryside Agency (2002). The following extract provides a summary of the criteria used in the report for assessing landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.

<b>Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Criteria</b>			
<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Aspects indicating lower sensitivity to wind farm development</b>	<b>↔</b>	<b>Aspects indicating higher sensitivity to wind farm development</b>
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>			
Landform and scale: patterns, complexity and consistency	Large scale landform Simple Featureless Absence of strong topographical variety	↔	Small scale landform Distinctive and complex Human scale indicators Presence of strong topographical variety
Land cover: patterns, complexity and consistency	Simple Predictable Smooth, regular and convex or flat and uniform	↔	Complex Unpredictable Rugged and irregular
Settlement and man-made influence	Concentrated settlement pattern Presence of contemporary structures eg utility, infrastructure or industrial elements	↔	Dispersed settlement pattern Absence of modern development, presence of small scale, historic or vernacular settlement
Movement	Prominent movement, busy	↔	No evident movement, still

VISUAL		
Skylines	Simple predictable skylines Presence of existing vertical features	↔ Complex unpredictable skylines Uninterrupted horizons
Inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes	Limited views into and out of landscape Neighbouring landscapes of low sensitivity Weak connections, self contained area and views Simple large scale backdrops	↔ Prospects into and out from high ground or open landscapes Neighbouring landscapes of high sensitivity Contributes to wider landscape Complex or distinctive backdrops
Key views, vistas and landmark features	Obscured landmarks, views towards/ from landmarks, absence of vistas Indistinctive or industrial settings	↔ Prominent key landmarks, views towards/ from landmarks or key vistas Distinctive settings or public viewpoints
Receptors	Unpopulated or few receptors Inaccessible	↔ More densely populated or many receptors Landscape focused recreation and/ or visitor attraction
Natural and cultural heritage features (views to/ from)	Limited association between landscape(s) and/or features	↔ Strong association between landscape(s) and/or features
Perceptual aspects (sense of remoteness, tranquillity)	Close to visible or audible signs of human activity and development	↔ Physically or perceptually remote, peaceful or tranquil

The statements on overall sensitivity to wind energy development for each of the landscape character areas set out in this document have been adopted in the baseline assessment.

## ***Landscape Character Area Descriptions***

This section describes Landscape Character Areas that coincide with the 20km radius study area. The descriptions and the assessment of sensitivity of the Landscape Character Areas form the baseline to the assessment of effects on Landscape Character.

There are thirteen LCAs within the detailed study area all of which would potentially be affected to some degree by the Development, as identified through analysis of the ZTV plans. The application site is situated within the 'Yell Peatlands' Landscape Character Area.

**Table 1 - Landscape Character Areas within 20km Detailed Study Area**

Landscape Character Area
<b>Major Uplands Landscape Type</b>
A3 Ronas Hill
A4 Unst Uplands
<b>Peatland and Moorland Landscape Type</b>
B1 Yell Peatland

B2 Rounded Moorland Hills
B3 Unst and Fetlar Rocky Heathland
<b>Undulating Moorland with Lochs Landscape Type</b>
C2 Uyea, Braewick, Tingon and North Roe
<b>Inland Valleys Landscape Type</b>
D4 Peatland and Moorland Inland Valley
<b>Farmed and Settled Lowland and Coast Landscape Type</b>
E3 Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands
E4 Unst and West Mainland Coastal Crofting
<b>Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds Landscape Type</b>
F2 Nucleated Settlements
F4 Unst and Fetlar Crofting and Grassland
F5 Scattered Settlement / Crofting and Grazing Lands
<b>Coastal Edge Landscape Type</b>
G1 Coastal Edge

A description of each of the LCAs which will potentially be affected, explaining the main features, key characteristics and sensitivity of the landscape to development of the type proposed is provided in the baseline assessment tables below. The locations of the LCAs within the detailed 20km radius study area are shown on **Figure 5.2.5**, overlaid onto the combined Blade Tip and Hub Height ZTV mapping.

#### Major Uplands Landscape Types

**Table 2 - Landscape Character Area A3: Ronas Hill**

<b>Key Characteristics</b>	
The landscape character area covers the extent of Ronas Hill and an area of strong topographical variety in North Roe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale upland landscape</li> <li>• Heather moorland and rough grassland slopes</li> <li>• Forms a focal point in views from surrounding landscapes</li> </ul>	
<b>Features</b>	
Landform and Scale	The large scale red granite mass of Ronas Hill forms a distinct domed outline, rising up to 450m AOD.
Land Cover	The exposed landscape at the summit is rock-strewn with little vegetation. Heather moorland and rough grassland dominate the lower slopes.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These uplands are unsettled. Communication structures and access tracks are apparent man-made elements on Collafirth Hill.

Movement	The relative absence of movement within this landscape gives the area a still character.
Skylines	Skylines are open and uninterrupted.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Panoramic views are afforded to the surrounding landscape, coastline and seascape.
Receptors	Ronas Hill is widely visible from the surrounding area and viewed by a large number of receptors within the surrounding landscape, including residents from numerous settlements, users of the A970 and the local road network.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	This upland landscape forms a focal point in views from surrounding landscapes and forms a simple backdrop to the settled coast, voes and sounds and the lower peatlands.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	This area is of considerable natural heritage interest (SSSI). A number of historic remains are situated in this landscape, including a chambered cairn on the summit of Ronas Hill.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of small scale settlements, local roads and farming activity in adjacent landscapes reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is large scale with a domed landform, simple skylines and few man-made elements. Ronas Hill forms a landmark feature in views from the surrounding landscape, lending it a <b>moderate</b> sensitivity.

**Table 3 - Landscape Character Area A4: Unst Uplands**

Key Characteristics	
The landscape character area covers the Unst uplands, including Valla Field, Hermaness and Saxa Vord. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale upland landscape</li> <li>• Heather moorland and rough grassland</li> <li>• Forms a backdrop to adjoining landscapes</li> <li>• Natural and cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	Large scale ridge of high ground to the north and western edges of Unst (up to 216m AOD), and gently rounded upland mass to the north at Saxa Vord.
Land Cover	The predominant vegetation is a simple heather moorland with rough grassland on the lower slopes.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	There is a general absence of settlement. The disused RAF aerials and radar dome at Saxa Vord are prominent manmade features.
Movement	The relative absence of movement within this landscape gives the area a still character.
Skylines	Skylines are simple, open and uninterrupted.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Expansive views are available of the coastline, cliffs and surrounding lowlands.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by residents from nearby settlements, users of the local road network, visitors to Hermaness and to other local visitor destinations.

Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	This LCA appears as a backdrop in views from the surrounding settled voes and sounds, and locally retains views from inland valleys.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	The area has significant (SSSI) natural and cultural heritage associations e.g. ornithological interest around Hermaness, geological interest, local folklore.
Perceptual Aspects	This is a fairly remote landscape, however the presence of communication structures and scattered settlements in the surrounding landscape reduces this sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This large scale upland landscape has a uniform land cover and skyline with modern communication structures (Saxa Vord), lending it an overall <b>moderate</b> sensitivity.

### Peatland and Moorland Landscape Types

**Table 4 - Landscape Character Area B1: Yell Peatland (the Proposed Development falls into this area)**

Key Characteristics	
The landscape character area incorporates extensive areas of peatland and moorland in the interior of Yell. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive undulating landscape</li> <li>Peatland and heather moorland</li> <li>Natural and cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	Extensive landscape with a gently rounded and undulating landform.
Land Cover	Landcover is dominated by peatland and heather moorland. Inland lochs are frequent in North Yell.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	The interior of this landscape is unsettled. Evident man-made interventions are roads (A968 and B9081), electricity transmission lines and peat cutting.
Movement	Traffic on local roads brings localised movement to this landscape.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and uninterrupted.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Expansive views are afforded from this landscape across undulating peatlands and towards lower lying coastal areas, Yell Sound, Unst and Fetlar.
Receptors	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.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	This landscape forms a simple, large scale backdrop to lower lying areas of settlement. Its elevated landform frequently limits views inland from these areas of settlement.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	Historic settlement remains are frequent in this landscape and very frequent in settled coastal areas. Moorlands and rare areas of blanket peat provide significant natural vegetation (SSSI) and wildlife habitat.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of expansive undeveloped areas gives this landscape a sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	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 <b>moderate</b> degree of sensitivity.
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**Table 5 - Landscape Character Area B2: Rounded Moorland Hills**

<b>Key Characteristics</b>	
The landscape character area within the study area comprises areas of rounded moorland on Fetlar.	
<b>Key Characteristics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small scale undulating landscape</li> <li>• Peatland and heather moorland</li> <li>• Cultural and natural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
<b>Features</b>	
Landform and Scale	This LCA is of a smaller scale undulating landform including rounded hills and smooth hummocky land.
Land Cover	Land cover is made up of a simple display of peatland or moorland vegetation.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	There is a relative absence of settlement in this landscape. Man-made interventions are limited and include few roads and telecommunication masts.
Movement	Movement is limited to traffic on local roads.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and mostly uninterrupted.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Expansive views are afforded of undulating peatlands, surrounding landscapes and coastal features.
Receptors	This LCA will be observed by residents from adjacent settled lowlands, voes and sounds, users of the local road system and receptors on board ships and ferries.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	These rounded hills form a simple backdrop and contribute to the wider landscape of the cultivated and settled lowlands.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	This landscape has localised areas of natural heritage interest. Historic remains in this LCA include various settlement remains and cairns.
Perceptual Aspects	The proximity to settled areas reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is of a smaller scale with undulating landform and occasional man-made features. Its smooth, convex land cover and presence of existing vertical features lend this landscape a <b>moderate</b> degree of sensitivity.

**Table 6 - Landscape Character Area B3: Unst and Fetlar Rocky Heathland**

Key Characteristics	
The landscape character area comprises areas of rocky heathland on Unst and Fetlar.	
<b>Key Characteristics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undulating high ground</li> <li>• Heathland and rocky outcrops</li> <li>• Natural and cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	Relatively large-scale areas of higher ground, broadly undulating with small areas of standing water, rock and boulders.
Land Cover	Land cover is characterised by heathland, rocky outcrops and plant communities associated with the serpentine bedrock.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	This landscape has a relative absence of settlement. Manmade interventions are limited and include roads and electricity transmission lines.
Movement	The presence of traffic on local roads gives movement to parts of this landscape.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and uninterrupted.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Expansive views are afforded of heather moorland, surrounding landscapes and the sea.
Receptors	This LCA will be observed by residents from adjacent settled lowlands, voes and sounds, users of the local road system and receptors on board ships and ferries.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	These elevated areas form a simple backdrop to the cultivated and settled lowlands, and locally retain views from inland valleys on Unst.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	Significant areas of natural heritage interest e.g. bird habitat and botanical interest (SSSIs). Settlement remains and cairns are frequent in this landscape. Drystane dykes form typical features in the landscape.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of traffic on local roads and visual links with settlements in adjacent landscapes reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape includes areas of varied scale with a generally undulating landform and occasional man-made features. The smooth, convex land cover in large scale areas lends a <b>moderate</b> sensitivity in association with roads and transmission lines.

## Undulating Moorland with Lochs Landscape Type

**Table 7 - Landscape Character Area C2: North Roe**

Key Characteristics	
The landscape character area comprises areas of peatland and rock outcrops in North Roe.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large scale, rounded landscape</li> <li>• Frequent lochs</li> <li>• Peatland</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	This area has a relatively large scale character with a rounded landform, locally rising up to 174m AOD, with rocky outcrops and numerous lochs.
Land Cover	Land cover in this landscape consists of a simple display of peatland.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	This LCA has a relative absence of settlement. The main man-made elements are the minor roads and tracks through the area.
Movement	A lack of movement gives this landscape a still character.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and uninterrupted.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Expansive views are afforded to the surrounding coastal landscape and to Ronas Hill.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by residents from adjacent landscapes and local road users.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	There is some association with settled coastal areas and the coastal edge. Ronas Hill forms a simple large scale backdrop.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	There are large areas of natural heritage interest (SSSI). Relatively few historic features remain in this landscape.
Perceptual Aspects	The remote location and lack of settlement and modern development gives this area a sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is of a large scale, with simple land cover and occasional manmade features, which lend it a <b>moderate</b> sensitivity.

## Inland Valleys Landscape Type

**Table 8 - Landscape Character Area D4: North Roe**

Key Characteristics	
<p>The landscape character area extends along the inland valleys of Burn of Caldback, Burn of Houlland, Burn of Sandgarth, and Burn of Dale. It includes the low and distinctive ridge of Mid Kame which separates the valleys of Pettadale (70m AOD) and Valley of Kergord (70m AOD), and which rises to 160m AOD.</p> <p>Key Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inland valley</li> <li>• Peatland and heather moorland</li> <li>• Few settlements</li> <li>• Cultural and natural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	These medium scale inland valleys are characterised by their simple concave landform and inland lochs.
Land Cover	Land cover consists of a simple display of peatland and heather moorland, with occasional areas of improved grassland and standing water.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	There are few settlements. The main man-made elements include electricity transmission lines, roads and disused quarries. Some peat cutting occurs.
Movement	Traffic along the main roads (A968) brings frequent movement to this landscape.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by vertical features, including electricity transmission lines and turbines at Burradale.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are contained by ridges of high ground, but extensive views are afforded along the valleys.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by few residents and mainly by users of the road network.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	Adjacent upland landscapes contain views within the valleys. Mid Kame contains views between valleys.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	Some historic settlements remain in the valley on Unst. The inland lochs and associated vegetation is of ecological interest.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of traffic on main roads and nearby settlement reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is of a medium scale with a concave landform and simple predictable skylines, formed by the distinctive West and East Kames which are part of adjacent upland LCAs (A2), and Mid Kame, which lies within LCA D4. Prominent movement (in Pettadale), the presence of existing vertical features and relative absence of settlement lend this area a moderate sensitivity.

## Farmed and Settled Lowland and Coast Landscape Type

**Table 9 -Landscape Character Area E3: Coastal Crofting and Grazing Lands**

Key Characteristics	
<p>The landscape character area extends along the coastal edge of parts of North Roe, Unst, Fetlar and Yell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal lowlands landscape</li> <li>• Grazing lands</li> <li>• Historic settlement pattern</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	These coastal lowlands have a gently undulating character of relatively small scale.
Land Cover	Land cover consists of a simple display of rough grazing land, degraded heather moorland and abandoned improved land.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These areas are relatively undeveloped, maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. Man-made influence is evident in the local road system, electricity transmission lines and traditional crofting land use.
Movement	Traffic along the local road system brings some movement to the landscape.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by settlements on higher ground.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are mainly directed towards the sea and include panoramic views of the coastal fringe.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by local residents, users of the road system, visitors of local attractions and receptors on board ships and ferries.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	There is a strong association with the sea, coastal landscapes and islands. This landscape forms a foreground to inland landscapes when approaching from the sea.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	This landscape is rich in historic remains that bear witness to the historic occupation pattern which is typical of Shetland.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of settlement and crofting activity in this landscape reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is of a small scale with occasional settlements maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. There is a strong association with the coastal fringe and significant historic interest, lending a <b>higher</b> degree of sensitivity.

**Table 10 - Landscape Character Area E4: Unst Coastal Crofting**

Key Characteristics	
The landscape character area comprises areas of coastal crofting landscape on Unst and Fetlar.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal lowlands landscape</li> <li>• Traditional crofting</li> <li>• Historic settlement pattern</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	These coastal lowlands have a gently undulating character and relatively small scale.
Land Cover	Land cover is typified by crofting with grazing land on low lying relatively fertile coastal ground and higher ground with peatland or moorland cover.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These areas are relatively undeveloped, maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. Man-made influence is limited to the local road system, electricity transmission lines and traditional crofting land use.
Movement	A lack of movement gives this landscape a still character.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by settlements on higher ground.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are mainly directed towards the sea and include panoramic views of nearby islands.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by local residents, users of the road system and receptors on board ships and ferries.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	There is a strong association with the sea, coastal landscapes and islands across the sounds.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	This landscape is rich in historic remains that bear witness to the historic occupation pattern which is typical of Shetland.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of settlement and crofting activity in this landscape reduces the sense of remoteness. The presence of existing wind farm development adds to the developed character of the landscape.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is of a small scale with occasional settlements maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. There is a strong association with the coastal fringe and significant historic interest. Overall the LCA has a medium sensitivity to development.

## Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds Landscape Type

**Table 11 - Landscape Character Area F2: Nucleated Settlement**

Key Characteristics	
<p>The landscape character area comprises small scale settlement at voe heads and sheltered coastal areas across the islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheltered coastal location</li> <li>• Nucleated development</li> <li>• Harbour facilities</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	These are relatively small scale, gently sloping coastal landscapes with sheltered coastal waters and small areas of concentrated settlement.
Land Cover	Land cover consists mainly of residential development, surrounded by rough grassland and heather moorland.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	Settlements are typically small and nucleated. Man-made influences include roads, fish farms and harbour facilities with ancillary developments.
Movement	The presence of local road and harbour traffic brings movement to these landscapes.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and mostly uninterrupted.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are afforded of the immediate coastal areas and surrounding landscapes.
Receptors	These landscapes will be observed by local residents, users of the road system, visitors and receptors on board ships and local ferries.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	These landscapes have a strong association with the coastal edge. As a result of settlement along sheltered voes, this LCA frequently forms a foreground to other landscapes when approaching from the sea.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	These areas are historically settled and are of cultural heritage interest.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of modern development in these landscapes reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	These landscapes are of a small scale, with concentrated settlements and a strong association with the sea, as a result of the sheltered situation at voe heads, lending a <b>higher</b> degree of sensitivity.

**Table 12 -Landscape Character Area F4: Unst and Fetlar Crofting and Grassland**

Key Characteristics	
The landscape character area comprises crofting land situated around the sheltered voes and sounds of Unst and Fetlar.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crofting and grassland</li> <li>• Few settlements</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	These are relatively small scale areas of gently sloping coastal landscape.
Land Cover	Land cover consists mainly of grassland.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These areas are mainly undeveloped, maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. Man-made influences include single track roads and electricity transmission lines.
Movement	The presence of traffic on the local road system brings some movement to this landscape.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by dwellings.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are afforded across grazing lands, coastal landscapes and surrounding heathland.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by local residents, users of the road system and visitors to popular destinations on the islands.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	The situation of this area allows a high degree of inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and the seascape.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	The area is rich in historic buildings and associated landscape features e.g. Munness Castle, Belmont House Gardens and Designed Landscape.
Perceptual Aspects	This landscape is physically remote.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is of a small scale with occasional settlements maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. There is a strong association with the coastal fringe and significant historic interest, lending a <b>higher</b> degree of sensitivity.

**Table 13 - Landscape Character Area F5: Scattered Settlements/ Crofting and Grazing Land**

Key Characteristics	
<p>The landscape character area comprises areas of scattered settlement, extending along the sheltered voes and sounds of the archipelago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheltered coastal location</li> <li>• Managed crofting landscape</li> <li>• Scattered settlements</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	This small scale character area forms an irregular, gently sloping coastal landscape, fringing frequent voes and sounds.
Land Cover	Land cover consists of a mixture of improved and unimproved grazing land.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These areas are typified by a scattered pattern of settlement. Man-made influences include roads and electricity transmission lines.
Movement	The presence of traffic on the local road system brings some movement to these landscapes.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by dwellings.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are afforded along distinct voes, to upland landscapes, coastal features and islands.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by local residents, users of the road system and the visiting public.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	The situations of these areas allow a strong association with sheltered voes and forms a foreground to neighbouring upland landscapes.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	The area is rich in historic buildings and associated landscape features.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of settlements and farming practices reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is characterised by a small scale crofting landscape, strongly associated with the sheltered voes and neighbouring uplands. The limited modern development and significant historic interest in this landscape, lend a <b>higher</b> degree of sensitivity.

**Table 14 - Landscape Character Area F4: Unst and Fetlar Crofting and Grassland**

Key Characteristics	
The landscape character area comprises crofting land situated around the sheltered voes and sounds of Unst and Fetlar.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crofting and grassland</li> <li>• Few settlements</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	These are relatively small scale areas of gently sloping coastal landscape.
Land Cover	Land cover consists mainly of grassland.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These areas are mainly undeveloped, maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. Man-made influences include single track roads and electricity transmission lines.
Movement	The presence of traffic on the local road system brings some movement to this landscape.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by dwellings.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are afforded across grazing lands, coastal landscapes and surrounding heathland.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by local residents, users of the road system and visitors to popular destinations on the islands.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	The situation of this area allows a high degree of inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and the seascape.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	The area is rich in historic buildings and associated landscape features e.g. Munness Castle, Belmont House Gardens and Designed Landscape.
Perceptual Aspects	This landscape is physically remote.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is of a small scale with occasional settlements maintaining the traditional pattern of crofting settlement. There is a strong association with the coastal fringe and significant historic interest, lending a <b>higher</b> degree of sensitivity.

**Table 15 - Landscape Character Area F5: Scattered Settlements/ Crofting and Grazing Land**

Key Characteristics	
<p>The landscape character area comprises areas of scattered settlement, extending along the sheltered voes and sounds of the archipelago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheltered coastal location</li> <li>• Managed crofting landscape</li> <li>• Scattered settlements</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	This small scale character area forms an irregular, gently sloping coastal landscape, fringing frequent voes and sounds.
Land Cover	Land cover consists of a mixture of improved and unimproved grazing land.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These areas are typified by a scattered pattern of settlement. Man-made influences include roads and electricity transmission lines.
Movement	The presence of traffic on the local road system brings some movement to these landscapes.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by dwellings.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are afforded along distinct voes, to upland landscapes, coastal features and islands.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by local residents, users of the road system and the visiting public.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	The situations of these areas allow a strong association with sheltered voes and forms a foreground to neighbouring upland landscapes.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	The area is rich in historic buildings and associated landscape features.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of settlements and farming practices reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is characterised by a small scale crofting landscape, strongly associated with the sheltered voes and neighbouring uplands. The limited modern development and significant historic interest in this landscape, lend a <b>higher</b> degree of sensitivity.

## Coastal Edge Landscape Type

**Table 16 - Landscape Character Area G1: Coastal Edge**

Key Characteristics	
<p>The landscape character area comprises areas of scattered settlement, extending along the sheltered voes and sounds of the archipelago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheltered coastal location</li> <li>• Managed crofting landscape</li> <li>• Scattered settlements</li> <li>• Cultural heritage interest</li> </ul>	
Features	
Landform and Scale	This small scale character area forms an irregular, gently sloping coastal landscape, fringing frequent voes and sounds.
Land Cover	Land cover consists of a mixture of improved and unimproved grazing land.
Settlement and Man-made Influence	These areas are typified by a scattered pattern of settlement. Man-made influences include roads and electricity transmission lines.
Movement	The presence of traffic on the local road system brings some movement to these landscapes.
Skylines	Skylines are simple and occasionally punctuated by dwellings.
Key Views, Vistas, Landmarks	Views are afforded along distinct voes, to upland landscapes, coastal features and islands.
Receptors	This landscape will be observed by local residents, users of the road network and the visiting public.
Inter-visibility with Adjacent Landscapes	The situations of these areas allow a strong association with sheltered voes and forms a foreground to neighbouring upland landscapes.
Natural and Cultural Heritage Features	The area is rich in historic buildings and associated landscape features.
Perceptual Aspects	The presence of settlements and farming practices reduces the sense of remoteness.
Overall Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	This landscape is characterised by a small-scale crofting landscape, strongly associated with the sheltered voes and neighbouring uplands. The limited modern development and significant historic interest in this landscape, lend a higher degree of sensitivity.

## **References**

- LUC. (2009). *Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development on the Shetland Islands.*
- Gillespies. (1998). *SNH Commissioned Report: No. 93: A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Islands.* SNH.

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