

Appendix E

Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

E.1 Landscape susceptibility is assessed with reference to the existing landscape characteristics and attributes of the landscape. Accordingly, the NatureScot (previously SNH) web based 2019 Landscape Character Assessment has been used as the basis for determining landscape susceptibility across the study area. The following Landscape Character Types (LCT) fall within the study area and are mapped on **Figure 5.1b**.

- LCT 90 – Dissected Plateau Moorland
- LCT 92 – Plateau Outliers
- LCT 99 – Rolling Farmland - Borders
- LCT 102 – Upland Fringe with Prominent Hills
- LCT 104 – Upland Fringe Rough Grassland
- LCT 114 – Pastoral Upland Valley
- LCT 201 – Plateau Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley
- LCT 212 – Moorland Hills – Glasgow Clyde Valley
- LCT 268 – Upland Hills - Lothians
- LCT 269 – Upland Fringes - Lothians
- LCT 270 – Lowland River Valleys – Lothians
- LCT 274 – Lowland Plain

E.2 The LCTs have been verified through fieldwork and the landscape character assessment provides a useful assessment tool for this routeing appraisal.

E.3 Each LCT which is potentially affected by a route option has been evaluated (on its susceptibility to being changed by OHL development of the type proposed) and categorised as having higher to lower susceptibility. The application of professional judgement in the use of the LCT also draws on the principles set out in the Holford Rules. Indicators of the relative levels of landscape susceptibility to accommodate OHL development are shown in the table below:

Table E.1: Indicators of Landscape Susceptibility

Landscape Susceptibility	Characteristics indicating a lower susceptibility to OHL development		Characteristics indicating a higher susceptibility to OHL development
Grades	Lower	Medium ↔	Higher
Indicators	Landscape character, existing land use, pattern, scale and attributes are robust and tolerant of the change resulting from OHL development. The change could be accommodated without geographically extensive and/ or significant adverse effects on (or loss of) key perceptual, physical or aesthetic characteristics.		Landscape character, existing land use, pattern, scale and attributes are vulnerable to being changed or lost resulting from the introduction of OHL development. Key perceptual and aesthetic characteristics are vulnerable to change or loss.

E.4 For each LCT, the key characteristics are analysed to inform an overall judgement on the LCT's susceptibility to OHL development (refer to Figure B.2). The following table outlines the rationale for determining landscape susceptibility in relation to key landscape characteristics:

Table E.2: Characteristics influencing Landscape Susceptibility


Characteristics	Characteristics indicating a lower susceptibility to OHL development	Characteristics indicating a higher susceptibility to OHL development
Landform and Scale	Flatter or gently undulating landscapes Broad valley landscapes Larger scale landscapes	Steep, complex landscapes Complex topography Intimate scale landscapes
Landcover and Pattern	Arable, pasture, rough grassland Moorland Simple patterns Landcover which can recover quickly/ does not require complex engineering solutions	Continuous woodland Bog, peat, wetlands Complex patterns Landcover which recovers slowly/ requires complex engineering solutions
Human influence	Industry, arable farming, presence of large built structures, disturbed areas Landscapes which have experienced a higher level of human influence More developed/ managed landscapes	Remote landscapes Areas with natural characteristics Landscapes with little evidence of human influence
Visual experience	Interrupted horizons Simple skylines	Uninterrupted horizons Distinctive/ complex skylines
Settlements	Industrial Sparsely settled arable	Residential Dense patterns of isolated farmstead/ small scale settlements

E.5 The following table presents LUC's appraisal of landscape susceptibility to OHL development with reference to the LCT through which the route options pass.

E.6 This table is divided into three sections representing the area to the south-east of the Pentland Hills (as defined by the Landscapes of Scotland dataset), the Pentland Hills themselves, and the area to the north of the Pentland Hills


Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
South-east of Pentlands (Landscapes of Scotland)		
<p>LCT 92- Plateau Outliers (extends across Cloich Hills and the site of the Cloich Forest Wind Farm)</p>	<p>Landform and scale – this LCT has a more pronounced relief with a <i>'greater height difference between summits and valley floors'</i> in comparison to surrounding LCTs. Hill summits are pronounced, rather than plateaued, and may contain rocky outcrops and scree and are separated from the main plateau by v-shaped river valleys. The presence of major valleys and pronounced hills results in a range of scales.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – a predominant feature of the landscape is the large areas of forestry, though there is a <i>'textured mosaic'</i> of ground cover, including rough grassland and heather in upland regions. Lower slopes contain some improved grassland. Within the study area, Cloich Forest occupies the majority of this LCT area at over 1000ha in size, along with access tracks to the plantation.</p> <p>Human influence – the presence of minor roads within the valley floors, providing access to properties, results in a relatively high visual sensitivity. Within the study area, there are a number of scheduled monuments, though the most significant within the LCT are located just outside the study area, including White and Black Meldon.</p> <p>Visual experience – higher elevations provide <i>'wide horizons and distant views'</i>, overlooking surrounding LCTs. Due to the greatest difference in height between landscape features, outward views vary and a contrast between the uplands and lowland regions is noted. Within the study area, the character is more enclosed due to the large-scale woodland plantation, thus long-distance views are limited in regions.</p> <p>Settlements – overall, settlements in this LCT are low density and contained mainly within sheltered valleys, with access tracks traversing the valley floors. Within the study area, the majority of settlements in this LCT are confined to the north</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a medium susceptibility to OHL development.</p>  <p>View northwest from Cloich Forest</p>

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
	<p>of the LCT area, close to main road A701. Views from settlements within the Scottish Borders council area are indicated in the western extents, near main road A701.</p>	
<p>LCT 99 – Rolling Farmland - Borders (area including settlement of West Linton)</p>	<p>Landform and scale – the landform is gently undulating with more pronounced features at higher elevations. the <i>'flat or constant gentle gradients'</i> afford long distance views.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – A mix of arable and pastoral land creates a <i>'strong geometric field pattern'</i>, which is enclosed by hedgerows and scattered woodland. The south-western section, bordering the Pentlands SLA, is predominantly enclosed farmland. This is in contrast to the north-east section which contains area of forestry, including Deeppsyke Forest.</p> <p>Human influence – within the study area, the Cross Borders Drove Road walking route cuts through, passing through West Linton in a south-east – north-west alignment. There are a number of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and the conservation areas of West Linton and Carlops. Existing overhead line infrastructure is present at the south edge of Carlops, where there is access to the North Esk Reservoir by road. Dere Street and the Carlisle to Cramon Roman roads also cut through this area, in addition to several Scottish Borders core paths.</p> <p>Visual experience – The <i>'constant gentle gradients'</i> afford wide horizons, and distant views are afforded overlooking the <i>'regular geometric field pattern'</i>, beyond the lowlands to other upland areas. The field pattern lends to a neat, <i>'prosperous'</i> landscape appearance. In contrast, localised landform and woodland areas offer more intimate spaces. From lower lying areas, long distance outward views are afforded intermittently between tree lines.</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a high susceptibility to OHL development.</p> 

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
	<p>Settlements – overall, this LCT is ‘moderately densely settled’ with a minor road network connecting settlements. Within the study area, this LCT contains the town of West Linton and the southern part of Carlops, among other villages of similar vernacular style. Settlements are served by minor roads, with major road A702 running through West Linton, increasing visual sensitivity in the area. The area of highest visibility from settlements within the Scottish Borders council area is adjacent to the A701, running through the south-eastern edge of the LCT.</p>	
<p>LCT 102 – Upland Fringe with Prominent Hills</p>	<p>Landform and scale – medium scale landscape with a diverse and rugged landform of “<i>steep, cone and dome-shaped hills</i>”, “<i>smooth undulations</i>” and “<i>strongly elongated ridges and hollows</i>”.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – land cover is dominated by pasture with unimproved grassland and heather moorland on the hill slopes and summits. Woodland cover occurs in scattered blocks, shelterbelts and along watercourses, and hedgerows are common across the area.</p> <p>Human influence – small settlements and scattered properties introduce human influence into the landscape. Likewise, forestry plantations, overhead lines and roads (including the A701 and A72) highlight the human influence.</p> <p>Visual experience – the hills within and surrounding this LCT are the focal point of views. The contrast in landcover, notably between the smaller-scale areas of woodland and pasture and hills provides a sense of contrast.</p> <p>Settlements – outside the settlements of Skirling, the settlement pattern is generally of low density and sparse, with isolated farmsteads.</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a medium susceptibility to OHL development.</p>

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
<p>LCT 104 – Upland Fringe Rough Grassland</p>	<p>Landform and scale – generally a simple and uniform landform with relatively little topographic variety except for <i>"gentle undulations"</i> and localised <i>"mounds and terraces"</i>.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – land cover is predominantly <i>"tussocky acid grassland"</i> used for pasture, with large fields divided by drystone dykes and fences. Tree cover is limited.</p> <p>Human influence – the A703 cutting through the LCT and scattering of properties introduce human influence into the landscape. The presence of existing overhead lines also highlights the human influence in the landscape.</p> <p>Visual experience – the LCT is afforded <i>"distant and panoramic"</i> views with visual horizons dominated by the surrounding upland environment. Due to the open nature of the landscape, there is limited opportunities for enclosed views.</p> <p>Settlements – the settlement pattern is generally of low density and sparse, with isolated farmsteads.</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a low susceptibility to OHL development.</p>

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
		 A photograph showing a gravel path or driveway that stretches into the distance. The path is flanked on both sides by dense, mature green trees and bushes, creating a canopy effect. The sky is clear and blue. The path appears to be well-maintained and is bordered by wooden posts and wire fencing.

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

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		View from Leadburn Community Woodland, along Peebles Way/ Leadburn Way
LCT 114 – Pastoral Upland Valley	<p>Landform and scale – medium scale landscape which is strongly influenced by the surround uplands which enclose it. Generally, the valley is <i>"flat and narrow"</i> with localised areas of widening.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – medium sized fields of improved pasture is the predominant landcover along the floodplain, with fields of permanent pasture and arable land on lower slopes. Trees are common throughout the LCT, in the form of <i>"small to medium scale mature woodlands"</i> and <i>"coniferous plantations and shelterbelts"</i>.</p> <p>Human influence – Small settlements, scattered properties and the presence of drystone dykes and fences enclosing fields introduce human elements into the landscape. The A703 road runs along river terraces above the valley floor, and several minor roads extend across the valley.</p> <p>Visual experience – The abundance of trees found in this landscape, combined with the surrounding upland areas, results in a strong sense of enclosure. Views within the area are <i>"medium to long in range"</i> and focussed along the valley with areas of woodland forming the horizon. Views out of and into the area are confined by the surrounding uplands.</p> <p>Settlements – Beyond the small settlement of Eddleston, properties and farmsteads tend to be scattered, albeit broadly focused along the A703.</p>	The key characteristics indicate a medium-high susceptibility to OHL development.
LCT 201 – Plateau Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley	Landform and scale – an <i>'extensive, open'</i> landscape characterised by its transitional position between sheltered lowlands and exposed uplands. The landform is generally flat.	The key characteristics indicate a low susceptibility to OHL development.


Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
	<p>Landcover and pattern – tree cover is limited across the landscape and is in decline. The primary land use is agricultural, with large and evenly spaced fields. Some areas of mosses and restored peat are present.</p> <p>Human influence – visible signs of human activity are present in the form of major transport routes including A70 and A701, and pylons and telegraph poles.</p> <p>Visual experience – the decline in tree cover has reduced the rural character of the area and, as such, the visual prominence of contemporary human elements such as settlements and transport infrastructure has become more apparent. Views across the landscape are wide and open, with few focal points of note, occupying the foreground of views towards hills of adjoining LCTs.</p> <p>Settlements – the LCT contains ‘<i>visually prominent</i>’ settlements. Within the study area, scattered individual properties are present north-west of Dolphinton.</p>	
LCT 269 – Upland Fringes - Lothians	<p>Landform and scale – a large-scale landscape of broad, undulating slopes. The North Esk gorge is a particularly steep narrow valley which comprised a major glacial meltwater channel in the past. This introduces a smaller-scale, more complex feature into the landscape.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – landcover is varied, comprising areas of arable and pasture fields, improved grassland, remnant heather moorland and rough grassland, and shelterbelts, though heather moorland is most extensive across Auchencorth Moss to the east of the Pentlands.</p> <p>Human influence – visible signs of human activity are present in the form of transport corridors, small villages and farmsteads, overhead lines, and occasional industrial developments such as quarries.</p>	The key characteristics indicate a medium-high susceptibility to OHL development to the east of the Pentlands.

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
	<p>Visual experience – The "simple, open" and "low-lying" nature of Auchencorth Moss contrasts strongly with the Pentland hills, "accentuating their height", which enclose longer ranging views from east of the Pentlands.</p> <p>Settlements – generally sparsely populated in the Auchencorth Moss area although some small villages such as Leadburn and Howgate are concentrated along major roads, including the A701 and A702 south of Penicuik.</p>	 <p>View north towards the Pentland Hills, including the summits of West Kip and East Kip</p>
LCT 270 – Lowland River Valleys - Lothians	<p>Landform and scale – a small-scale and topographically varied landscape, which comprises incised and enclosed meandering river valleys with arable land on upper slopes and fringes. The small valleys of tributaries and burns feeding into the main river of the North Esk create patterns of</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a medium susceptibility to OHL development.</p>


Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

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	<p>complex "<i>interweaving slopes</i>". The North Esk gorge is a particularly unique and complex narrow and steep valley formed by glacial meltwater.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – the area is well-wooded, particularly along rivers, including the notable Ancient Woodland of Roslin Glen. As the valleys open, areas of scrub and pasture become more prominent, with arable land defined by shelterbelts and hedgerows on the upper, gentler slopes.</p> <p>Human influence – drystone walls are common around the upper North Est, introducing manmade features into the landscape. This landscape is also heavily influenced by large settlements, villages and scattered properties, and the infrastructure that serve them including the A701 and A702 roads.</p> <p>Visual experience – views tend to be focussed along river valleys but are foreshortened by the "<i>enclosing wooded slopes</i>" which form a barrier. Within more open areas, long-ranging views to the surrounding hills are afforded.</p> <p>Settlements – a highly populated landscape comprising the towns of Penicuik and Loanhead, with several other smaller villages and properties surrounding the towns.</p>	
Within Pentlands (Landscapes of Scotland)		
LCT 90 – Dissected Plateau Moorland	<p>Landform and scale – an overall grandeur of scale is noted with strong topographical features consisting of level-topped hills and ridges, separated by steep sided valleys which are '<i>more intimate</i>', enclosed by woodland and surrounding topography. Cauldstane Slap is a notable pass between East Cairn Hill and West Cairn Hill- on the border between this LCT and LCT 268.</p>	The key characteristics indicate a medium-high susceptibility to OHL development.


Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

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	<p>Landcover and pattern – the LCT is largely covered by peatland, heather moorland and grassland, leading to a sense of naturalness and a characteristically colourful landscape across the seasons. Within the Pentland Hills in particular, <i>‘distinctly shaped conifer plantations and shelterbelts on lower hill slopes and valley sides’</i> are present, providing colour contrast with the moorland landcover.</p> <p>Human influence – outside the study area, wind farm developments such as Fallago Rig, Crystal Rig And Dun Law exert an existing human influence, forming skyline features in many views. Within the study area, Thieves Road cuts through the LCT, leading from West Linton towards isolated properties. The Cross Borders Drove Road walking route also cuts through, joining Thieves Road at Baddingsgill Farm and later passing Cauldstane Slap perpendicularly. Both routes cross this area of the LCT in an approximately north-south alignment. There is a water pipe running along the valley floor of Medwin Water, on the border of this LCT and LCT 212.</p> <p>Visual experience – long distance, open views are afforded across the rolling terrain of the Pentlands from plateaus and the summits of West Carin Hill, Byrehope Mount and The Mount, within the study area. Unobstructed views to adjoining LCTs and distant hills influence the perception of scale and remoteness. In contrast, views from the valleys are enclosed, limited by surrounding hills. Cauldstane Slap is an exception to this, providing 360° views across the Pentland Hills, and the Lothians and Tweedmuir Hills beyond. It is noted as an iconic viewpoint in Scottish Borders council SG.</p> <p>Settlements – overall, this LCT has a low settlement density with isolated properties in a dispersed pattern, primary situated within valleys. Within the study area, settlements consist of individual farms located near Baddingsgill Reservoir, clustered around Thieves Road. Views from</p>	


Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
	<p>settlements within the Scottish Borders council area are concentrated on peaks in the northern part of the LCT, such as Wether Law and The Mount.</p>	
<p>LCT 212 – Moorland Hills – Glasgow Clyde Valley</p>	<p>Landform and scale – a large-scale landscape with a gently sloping plateau, and localised areas of steeper slopes. Hills reach over 400m and consist of rolling moorland.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – landcover is predominantly heather and peat moorland. On the lower slopes rough grazing pasture is more common with occasional forestry blocks.</p> <p>Human influence – there is little settlement within this area with the exception of a few isolated farmsteads. Other human influence includes introduction of small-scale forestry and farming (sheep grazing) in the area. There is a water pipe running along the valley floor of Medwin Water, on the border of this LCT and LCT 90.</p> <p>Visual experience – the hill tops and elevated slopes offer <i>"long panoramic views"</i> and views towards nearby <i>"landmarks"</i> in adjacent landscapes. The prominent hills of the Pentlands provide a <i>"distinctive skyline"</i> characterised by its undeveloped nature.</p> <p>Settlements – the area is largely unsettled due to its inaccessibility, but some isolated farmsteads are located along the periphery of the LCT.</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a medium-high susceptibility to OHL development.</p> 

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

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<p>LCT 268 – Upland Hills - Lothians</p>	<p>Landform and scale – a large-scale and topographically varied landscape. The north-eastern section features two parallel ridgelines in a broadly north-east to south-west alignment, separated by a deep valley which houses Logan Burn and several reservoirs, between major summits including Black Hill and Carnethy Hill. The south-western section contains East Cairn Hill and the northern bank of West Cairn Hill, whose summit is in adjoining LCT 90. Between the hills lies the Cauldstane Slap pass.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – landcover across the area is varied comprising <i>"heather moor, grassland, broadleaf woodland, open water and wetland"</i> offering great diversity for habitats. Upper slopes are primarily dominated by rough grazing whilst pasture is common on lower slopes.</p> <p>Human influence – human influence is evident throughout the landscape. Although settlement is limited to the peripheral locations, the presence of the A702, drystone dykes and the prominent dry ski-slope at Hillend introduce obviously human elements within the landscape. Less prominent evidence includes the numerous paths and tracks used for recreational purposes which dissect the Pentlands, and occasional military training near Castlelaw Hill. Human activity is focussed across the north, with golf courses and popular hill walking routes being present.</p> <p>Visual experience – the hill summits and ridges offer a <i>"panoramic outlook"</i>. The prominent hills of the Pentlands are visually important for providing a <i>"backdrop"</i> in external views. Key summits Allermuir Hill and Caerketton Hill, and the Caerketton crags, along with the northern slopes of the Pentlands and the Hillend Ski Slope are noted within the view cones of 15 key views from various locations within the City of Edinburgh council area, forming the skyline and backdrop. Additionally, hills such as Scald Law and Carnethy Hill are visible in distant views from SLAs within Midlothian,</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a medium-high susceptibility to OHL development.</p>  <p>View from Swanston Golf Course of key summits including Allermuir Hill and Caerketton Hill</p>

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
	<p>including from the Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp SLA, where they form a dramatic backdrop. The Scottish Borders council SG notes Cauldstane Slap as an iconic viewpoint, with panoramic views afforded across the Pentland Hills, and Lothians and Tweedsmuir Hills beyond.</p> <p>Settlements – the area is sparsely populated due to its inaccessibility, but some isolated farmsteads and properties are located along the A702 and at lower elevations on the slopes.</p>	
<p>LCT 269 – Upland Fringes - Lothians</p>	<p>Landform and scale – broad, undulating slopes at a large scale. Localised landform undulations create ‘<i>intimate</i>’ depressions, introducing complex, smaller scale features into the landscape.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – landcover is varied, comprising areas of arable and pasture fields, improved grassland, remnant heather moorland and rough grassland, and shelterbelts. The north-western extents of the Pentlands (Landscapes of Scotland) are predominately covered in coniferous forestry, a mixture of mature and recently planted, which enhances the landform undulations in providing ‘<i>intimate</i>’ and ‘<i>enclosed</i>’ depressions at a local scale.</p> <p>Human influence – visible signs of human activity are present in the form of transport corridors, small villages and farmsteads, overhead lines, and occasional industrial developments such as quarries.</p> <p>Visual experience – the LCT provides a visual transition from the upland hills of the Pentlands, ‘<i>apparent in the contrasting landforms</i>’ between key summits of the Pentlands and lower lying regions to the north, including LCT 274: Lowland Plain.</p> <p>Settlements- there are no settlements within this area of the LCT, but a few scattered individual properties.</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a medium susceptibility to OHL development within the Pentlands.</p>


Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
		 <p data-bbox="1035 1166 1999 1219">View from unclassified road south-west of Balerno overlooking Red Moss Nature Reserve in the foreground with the Pentland Hills beyond</p>


Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
North-west of Pentlands (Landscapes of Scotland)		
<p>LCT 269 – Upland Fringes - Lothians</p>	<p>Landform and scale – Active and disused quarries form <i>'craggy visual features in an otherwise simple landscape'</i>. Localised landform undulations create <i>'intimate'</i> depressions, introducing complex, smaller scale features into the landscape.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – landcover is varied, comprising areas of arable and pasture fields, improved grassland, remnant heather moorland and rough grassland, and shelterbelts. Shelterbelts and areas of forestry are more common to the west of the Pentlands with recent shelterbelts planted on lower-lying ground.</p> <p>Human influence – visible signs of human activity are present in the form of transport corridors, small villages and farmsteads, overhead lines, and occasional industrial developments such as quarries.</p> <p>Visual experience – The LCT provides a visual transition from the upland hills of the Pentlands, <i>'apparent in the contrasting landforms'</i> between key summits of the Pentlands and lower lying regions to the north, including LCT 273: Lowland Plateau- Lothians.</p> <p>Settlements – Scattered individual properties are located along the A70 on the north-western edge of the Pentlands. Settlements are found further north-west, including Harburn. The northernmost section of this LCT area contains the southern edge of Balerno and properties on minor roads south of Currie.</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a medium-high susceptibility to OHL development to the west of the Pentlands.</p>  <p>View north-west from Harlaw Road</p>

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

Landscape Character Area	Key landscape characteristics	LUC appraisal: Landscape susceptibility to OHL development of the type proposed
<p>LCT 274 – Lowland Plain</p>	<p>Landform and scale – large-scale landscape comprising "<i>smoothly rolling</i>" agricultural land. Smaller scale features include the incised valley of the Water of Leith which runs broadly parallel to the A70.</p> <p>Landcover and pattern – the predominant landcover is arable land in medium- to large-scale fields defined by hedgerows and fences. Riparian woodland is present along the Water of Leith, and shelterbelts of woodland are found throughout the area.</p> <p>Human influence – The presence of settlements, the transport network and extensive farming have introduced human elements into the landscape. Furthermore, the presence of wind farms and overhead lines provide further evidence of human change.</p> <p>Visual experience – Expansive views are possible towards "<i>nearby landscapes of... hills</i>" and the area is "<i>visually important in providing the setting of Edinburgh</i>" from the west.</p> <p>Settlements – The area is heavily populated with numerous villages and hamlets, including the settlements of Currie and Balerno. Smaller settlements and scattered properties are also found throughout this landscape.</p>	<p>The key characteristics indicate a low susceptibility to OHL development.</p>  <p>View west from Torphin Road</p>

Appendix E
Landscape Susceptibility Appraisal

Cloich Forest Wind Farm Connection Project
May 2024

E.7 Figure E.1 provides a high-level illustration of areas within the study area which have a higher susceptibility to OHL development. The illustration was created by identifying key considerations and layering them, with the darker highlighted areas indicating a greater number of potential constraints, and therefore areas which are more susceptible to development. Considerations include national and local designations, in addition to observations of recreational land use and existing infrastructure which may result in cumulative effect.

National designations include SSSIs, Conservations Areas, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, and Special Areas of Conservation. Local designations include Regional Parks, Country Parks, Special Landscape Areas, Local Nature Reserves, and Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserves. Additional considerations include Peat (Category 1), long distance walking routes, key views, existing infrastructure, and river valleys.

Figure E.1: Susceptibility to OHL development

