

# APPENDIX 1: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

This appendix updates Appendix 6.3 of the LVIA in the EIA Report which included an assessment of the sensitivity of the host landscape character type Upland Sloping Moorland (LCT 359). It includes additional assessment of the sensitivity of landscape character of the Stepped Moorland (LCT 360), which was requested by The Highland Council. We have also included other LCTs within 5km (LCT 357 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands - Skye & Lochalsh and LCT 358 – Low Smooth Moorland).

Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular form of change likely to result from the proposed development. The table below is based on guidance provided within LI TGN 02/21 - specifically table 1 within that document. Assessment text relates to sensitivity of the landscape receptor as a whole, to the proposed development, with additional comments regarding the Site where relevant. In the main this has been taken from the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment (quotes shown in italics) as well as from local sources and site assessment.

## Host Landscape: LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No national or local landscape designations	Community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	There is presence of peat and some ecologically valued habitats in this LCT.	Regional
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	<i>'the remains of scattered mediaeval and later farmsteads and townships can be found across this Landscape Character Type' 'The presence of brochs and duns, particularly overlooking the valleys which form natural routes through this landscape, demonstrates the use and importance of the landscape during prehistory.'</i>	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	<p><i>'Land use is mainly rough grazing and forestry, and higher locations are used for wind energy generation, with two moderately-sized windfarms. The ground conditions and exposure have limited modern settlement to a few isolated farms.'</i></p> <p><i>'The majority of land cover is rough, boggy grassland and heather, alongside a few large-scale plantations on well-drained margins and better soils.'</i></p>	Regional
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	There are no strong associations with this LCT.	Community
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/ot with an important relationship to a settlement.	<p>This LCT contains mainly commonplace elements and is <i>'closely associated, and often merging, with Stepped Moorland – the key difference being the general lack of stepped profile due in part to erosion and depth of surface deposits. The type merges with Low Smooth Moorland at lower levels in several locations.'</i></p> <p><i>'Land use is mainly rough grazing and forestry, and higher locations are used for wind energy generation, with two moderately-sized windfarms.'</i></p>	Community
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	There is some amenity / recreation function with two core paths located inside the LCT and existing tracks used as informal routes. <i>'Some tracks penetrate the interior, but this area is rarely visited by walkers and there is a sense of remoteness and exposure on high road passes.'</i>	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	Whilst there are extensive views from this LCT to surrounding mountains, islands, coastlines and the sea, views to this LCT are not remarkable and <i>'have a relatively simple composition.'</i>	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	<i>'this area is rarely visited by walkers and there is a sense of remoteness and exposure on high road passes.'</i>	Regional
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	This is mainly upland moorland with some peat deposits but no important landscape function.	Community
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Regional</b>

### Susceptibility

Scale	Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	This LCT is large scale with <i>'expansive moorland'</i> and <i>'large scale patchwork of contrasting colours and textures.'</i>	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	<i>'The topography is gently sloping and undulating with the lower slopes cut by small burns radiating from below the summits.'</i>  <i>'Mainly smooth'</i> and <i>'expansive moorland with gentle slopes and broad undulations above 50 metres and sweeping, rounded summits up to 260 metres.'</i>	Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>Occasional finer grain, ridge-like or hummocky undulations in surface deposits, found in places at the base of slopes.</i>	
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	<i>'Exposed and open, with extensive views to surrounding mountains, islands, coastlines and the sea.'</i>	Low
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	<i>'Simple overall composition.'</i>	Low
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	<i>'Mainly used for grazing on rough grass land, and for forestry, which together form a large scale patchwork of contrasting colours and textures'</i> <i>'The dark colour and texture of conifers contrasts with smooth, muted colours of rough grass, forming a large scale patchwork which traverses slopes and summits.'</i>	Medium/Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<i>'Little settlement – occasional isolated modern farms.'</i> <i>'Groups of wind turbines occur as prominent man-made features.'</i> Evidence of population fluctuation from early history onwards with presence of brochs and duns.	Medium
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<i>'extensive views to surrounding mountains, islands, coastlines and the sea.'</i>	High
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	This LCT whilst being an upland area, is relatively low-lying compared to the surrounding mountains. It tends not to form a distinctive skyline or horizon.	Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Low</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity for LCT 359 – Upland Sloping Moorland</b>				<b>Medium/low</b>

## Adjacent Landscape: LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	Small parcels of this LCT intersect with the Trotternish National Scenic Area (NSA) on the east coast. Large areas of the LCT intersect with Highland Council designated landscapes including the Trotternish and Tianavaig, Raasay and Rona, North West Skye and Greshornish Special Landscape Areas (SLA)	Regional
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	This LCT has notable presence of geomorphological features, with key stepped landform characteristics on elevated areas and coastal plateaus noted as physical evidence of <i>'differential erosion of successive layers of ancient lava flows'</i> , <i>'...Jurassic bedrock outcrops'</i> and <i>'the incline of the basalt layers.'</i>	Regional
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	Heritage features are common in the LCT. <i>'The presence of brochs and duns, particularly overlooking the valleys which form natural routes through this landscape, demonstrates the use and importance of the landscape during prehistory'</i> ,	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
			Additionally, more recent features such as dykes and the remains of shieling buildings are found throughout the landscape.	
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The landscape is generally in good condition, with 'Base-rich soil' that supports extensive upland grazing and ' <i>occasional large and moderately sized, often isolated blocks of forest plantations</i> '	Regional
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	There are no noted significant cultural associations within the LCT.	Community
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	The LCT is noted for ' <i>distinct stepped profile</i> ' landforms formed by ' <i>ancient lava flows</i> ' and incised coastlines with ' <i>angular promontories within sea lochs</i> '  Upland moorland features are home to ' <i>Successive faces and gently sloping terraces form the repetitive stepped profile, which is most prominent on skylines</i> '	Regional
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	There are some core paths, walking routes and attractions located within the LCT, notably in coastal areas, peninsulas, and at the edge of Glen Brittle in close proximity to the Cuillins. The Skye Trail passes through this LCT to the north and south of Portree.  <i>'The upland areas are rarely visited by walkers...'</i> <i>'The usually treeless, open and exposed coastal shelves are more accessible than inland Stepped Moorland...'</i>	Regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	The landscape is known to offer ' <i>panoramic views of surrounding mountains</i> ' from elevated areas, particularly to the southeast in areas adjacent to the Cuillins.	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>'Occasional groups of wind turbines, in this type and in adjacent Low Smooth Moorland, are prominent features located on summits and ridge'</i>	
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	Impressions of wildness are varied throughout the LCT, with dispersed settlement common in some coastal areas. However <i>'The landscape becomes increasingly open at higher elevations'</i> where <i>'there is a sense of remoteness in the exposed interior and high road passes.'</i> The more accessible coastal shelves offer <i>'rare glimpses of inaccessible or remote coastal and mountain areas.'</i> It is dark landscape.	Regional
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	The LCT has a primarily recreational and ecological function, though it is also home to some occasional <i>'extensive grazing'</i> . The landscapes scenic, recreational, cultural heritage and ecological features are closely related to regionally designated landscapes.	Regional
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Regional</b>

### Susceptibility

Scale	Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	This is a predominantly large scale landscape with some landform features which are more variable in scale, such as the vertical faces and low rocky outcrops.	Medium
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	The Stepped Moorland LCT is comprised <i>'of moderate to low, broad-based, usually asymmetrical hills and moorland'</i> landforms. The LCT <i>'occurs from sea level up to elevations of around 400 metres.'</i> The LCT comprises <i>'clearly defined, often sloping, terraces'</i> set across landforms which are	Medium

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>'asymmetrical with a horizontal emphasis and broad base'.</i> <i>'Horizontal headlands' and 'small cliffs' form coastal extents of the LCT.</i>	
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The landscape in the LCT is typically <i>'exposed and open'</i> with <i>'extensive visibility'</i> .	Medium/Low
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	Land cover is mainly comprised of <i>'extensive grazing'</i> with <i>'occasional large and moderately sized'</i> isolated forestry dispersed throughout the LCT.  <i>In low, coastal areas landcover generally consists of 'unenclosed grassland' which is 'often more intensively grazed and appears smoother and greener'.</i>	Medium/Low
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Landform often has a <i>'repetitive pattern of vertical faces and gently sloping or slanting terraces'</i> , with occasional <i>'isolated forest blocks.'</i> Open landform meets the coast with small, sharp cliffs and steep terraces.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Small villages and hamlets are dispersed along travel routes close to the coast in the LCT, which is largely unsettled. <i>'Occasional groups of wind turbines, in this type and in adjacent Low Smooth Moorland, are prominent features located on summits and ridge'</i>	Low
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<i>'At the coast, high inter-visibility between promontories and rare views of inaccessible coastlines and mountains.'</i> <i>'The landscape becomes increasingly open at higher elevations and provides panoramic views of surrounding mountains.'</i>  The Cuillin Hills and The Macleod's Tables within other LCTs form distinctive features in views from this LCT on west Skye. More isolated views to nearby coastal landforms are dispersed throughout the LCT. Distant views to Lewis and Harris are available in seaward outlook from the	High



Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
			northwestern ends of both the Waternish and Duirinish peninsulas.	
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	<i>'Successive faces and gently sloping terraces form the repetitive stepped profile, which is most prominent on skylines.'</i> These are viewed as features of interest from nearby coastal landscapes such as the Farmed and Settled Lowlands LCT and the Low Smooth Moorland LCT.	High/Medium
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity - LCT 360 – Stepped Moorland</b>				<b>Medium</b>

## Nearby Landscape: LCT 357 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands - Skye & Lochalsh

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	Small parcels of this LCT intersect with the Trotternish National Scenic Area (NSA). Large areas of the LCT intersect with Highland Council designated landscapes including the Trotternish and Tianavaig and North West Skye SLAs, with further parcels located within the Greshornish SLA.	Regional
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	This LCT is located <i>'on basalt bedrock', with 'level, inclined or terraced' topography, 'incorporating vertical rock faces, tending to become broader and flatter at lower levels.'</i>	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	<p><i>'In more remote parts and in areas around settlements, there is extensive evidence of historic and pre-historic human activity in the ruins, abandoned field systems and archaeological relics.'</i> The LCT is also home to <i>'Neolithic chambered cairns'</i> and <i>'Iron Age forts'</i></p> <p>Connections between the LCT and the moors is evident in the location of adjacent <i>'shieling grounds, probably from the Bronze Age through to the 19th Century'</i></p> <p><i>'There is potential in these areas for surviving evidence of earlier, Mesolithic and Neolithic settlement, predating deforestation.'</i></p>	National/ Regional
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The LCT is aligned with fertile pasture, <i>'rural estates are on good soils, and associated with remnant broadleaf woodland, extensive mature parkland trees and avenues, and small conifer plantations and shelter belts, which create shelter and enclosure.'</i>	Regional
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	<p>The LCT was home to <i>'Late Iron Age and Early Mediaeval settlements are the location of churches and cemeteries which continued in use until the Reformation.'</i></p> <p><i>'Scatters of small ruins mark the areas used and reused for summer grazing, and caves and rock shelters, such as Uamh an Ard Achadh, provide evidence of ritual practice and intermittent occupation.'</i></p> <p><i>'What settlement there has been was also systematically cleared of people in the 18th and 19th Centuries, lending an emotive value to the abandoned and ruined settlements that are so ubiquitous throughout this area.'</i></p>	National/ Regional
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or	The LCT consists of the Islands most densely settled areas, with villages and hamlets coalescing with each other and their surroundings in form and orientation <i>'inbye to form ribbons or swathes of green pastures.'</i>	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
	no important relationship to a settlement.	with an important relationship to a settlement.	<p><i>'Most settlements retain their historic patterns of development' with 'the availability and type of soils, historic reliance on the sea for food and travel, and the balance of land tenure between estates and crofts' being the main drivers for the organisation and overall pattern of occupation.</i></p> <p>Within the LCT there are two distinct crofting patterns – <i>'Linear crofting', aligned with 'the rigid pattern of parallel lines is imposed on the landscape, rising up stepped moorlands and steep slopes.'</i>..and <i>Scattered crofting, which is 'dispersed and appears to have no planned layout. .</i></p>	
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	<p>There are several core paths throughout the LCT, with recreational facilities found in villages and townships. Core paths and walking routes often connect this LCT with upland and mountain character types.</p> <p><i>'Harbour settlements can attract large numbers of visitors as they tend to possess a favourable sheltered microclimate, within a predominantly exposed district, due the combined effect of aspect and inland shelter often forming 'sun traps''</i></p>	Regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	<p>Occasionally available views from the LCT are <i>'intriguing, sinuous views towards the mountainous interior become increasingly enclosed by steep slopes'.</i></p> <p>These landscapes both contribute to the wider scenic quality of the SLAs and gain scenic quality views across the coastal landscapes of the various SLAs.</p>	Regional
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	This well settled landscape is often busy, though some instances and edges of larger settlements can offer feelings of remoteness, particularly where there are views to mountainous landscapes.	Regional

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
			<p>Settlements and <i>'Rural estates are often enclosed by mature trees, hedges and woodlands which enhance the sense of tranquillity.'</i></p> <p>The LCT is <i>'sometimes associated with deserted beaches and headlands, and have a strong sense of isolation and tranquillity for much of the year.'</i></p>	
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	This LCT is busy and popular with tourists, with land use consisting of <i>'farming, crofting, tourism accommodation and activities, ferry terminals, and small plantations.'</i>	Regional
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Regional</b>

### Susceptibility

Scale	Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	<p>The LCT is generally of a small topographical scale, with <i>'small-scale land use patterns'</i> and is mainly <i>'found on low lying terrain'</i>.</p> <p><i>'Sharp contrast between human activity and small-scale land use patterns, and the surrounding large scale, mainly uninhabited, landscapes.'</i></p>	High
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	<p>Landform within the LCT consists of <i>'coastal shelves, narrow coastal strips, wide, level strath and glen floors and better drained estuarine flats'</i>. These typologies are often associated with <i>'rocky moorland and mountainous areas, found on narrow shelves and slopes at the base of rocky or rugged coastal strips with an abrupt, steep and sometimes complex coastal edge'</i>.</p>	High/Medium
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Settlements and rural areas are <i>'often enclosed by mature trees, hedges and woodlands'</i> , though smaller villages are	High/Medium

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
			found on <i>'broad lowland shelves'</i> with extensive views to upland and coastal areas.	
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	Land cover is largely comprised of <i>'improved grass land and relatively intense grazing'</i> with <i>'margins of broadleaf woodlands'</i> and <i>'mature parkland trees and small plantations'</i> .	Medium
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Large towns are set in favourable areas, usually on the coast and are connected by intermittent settlement and grazing land	High
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<i>'Larger settlements are active, bustling places, providing facilities for local services and tourism.'</i> <i>'Variable pattern of settlement, governed largely by historical changes in tenure – the change from run-rig to crofting - landform and soils, and influenced by coastlines, water courses, roads, ferries and bridges.'</i>	Medium
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Intervisibility to mountainous areas is common, though views are often found to be partially contained by mature woodland and parkland trees. Vast seaward views are available from coastal areas and waterfronts in larger settlements.	High/Medium
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	Whilst this LCT rarely forms skylines as it is often contained by surrounding <i>'rising up stepped moorlands'</i> . The settlement pattern is a distinctive feature in the backdrop of many views.	High
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>High</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity LCT 357 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands</b>				<b>High/Medium</b>

## Nearby Landscape: LCT 358 – Low Smooth Moorland

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	A few parts of the occurrences intersect with Highland Council landscape designations including the Trotternish and Tianavaig and North West Skye SLAs.	Regional/Community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	This LCT has a <i>'simple composition'</i> , has few notable natural features and is typically <i>'formed in depressions linked to the coast, in straths and glens between hills, and at the foot of landslide edges.'</i>  <i>'Occasionally, the migration of surface materials has created a slumped surface at the foot of steeper slopes, particularly to the east of Trotternish ridge.'</i>	Community
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	<i>'Evidence of intermittent prehistoric and historic settlement'</i> can be found throughout the LCT  <i>Population and environmental fluctuations in the past, from early prehistory onwards, led to the use of this land for permanent occupation; the remains of scattered medieval and later farmsteads and townships can be found across this landscape type, for example at the township of Braigh Skulamus in Skye.'</i>	Regional/Community
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	Within this largely treeless character type, <i>'there is a subtle diversity of vegetation, ranging from moorland to semi-improved patches.'</i>  <i>'Poorly drained peaty soils support boggy rough grassland and heather'</i> across moorland areas.	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute	<i>There are no notable cultural occurrences related to this LCT.</i>	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
		to perceptions of natural beauty.		
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	Comprised of <i>'mainly smooth terrain'</i> , the LCT is not notably distinct in physicality, though it does contain a variation of landscape features typically associated with waterways.	Community
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	Several core path and walking routes intersect the LCT, typically passing through the character type units to access points of interest in adjacent landscapes.	Community
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	LCT has a <i>'simple composition with a horizontal emphasis, which contrasts in texture and relief with surrounding rugged, hilly terrain and provides an open setting for adjacent settled landscapes.'</i>  The LCT is often found between two or more scenic areas including large, jagged mountains and incised coastlines, with views to adjacent features common throughout.	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The LCT <i>'is expansive, with few trees or built elements to reduce the sense of openness, although gently sloping sides of adjacent moorlands provide some peripheral containment'</i> .	Community
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong	These moorlands are often at the base of mountains and have peaty soil deposits which have an important landscape function when in good condition.	Regional/Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
	national landscape designation.	relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.		
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Community</b>

### Susceptibility

Scale	Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	The LCT <i>'is formed in relatively large, low lying bands within straths and glens, estuaries and at the foot of hill slopes, where it often merges with Upland Sloping Moorland.'</i> It is a large scale landscape.	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Landform <i>'is flat to gently sloping or undulating'</i> with an overall smooth texture intersected by drainage channels, small burns and rivers.	Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The LCT has a notable <i>'horizontal emphasis'</i> .	Low
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	<i>'There is a subtle diversity of vegetation, ranging from moorland to semi-improved patches. Poorly drained peaty soils support boggy rough grassland and heather.'</i> The are <i>'patches of scrub woodland often run along water courses. The slightly raised, upper margins allow for moderately-scaled conifer plantations on better drained land.'</i>	Low
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Predominantly smooth landscape with, <i>'rivers or small burns, peat cutting, abandoned fields, occasional drainage channels and eroded peat banks provide some surface detail.'</i>	Low



Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	The LCT is seldom settled, with very little built form. <i>'Roads are limited to main crossing points, such as across the mouths of inlets and estuaries.'</i> Where present, 'power lines introduce strong visual lines, and indicate scale and distance'.	Medium
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	The landscape is largely open, with little obstruction of views. However, <i>'gently sloping sides of adjacent moorlands provide some peripheral containment and channel views to mountain ranges, offshore islands and the sea.'</i>	Medium
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	This landscape type is often seen between larger scale landscapes and forms the base of views from elevated views across the island but is not distinctive.	Low
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium/low</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity LCT 358 – Low Smooth Moorland</b>				<b>Medium/Low</b>