

Technical Appendix 6.3 Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the landscape character types/areas which may receive significant landscape effects are assessed below. 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. 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 East Lothian Council's Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance (2018) or NatureScot's National Landscape Character Assessment; quotes are shown in italics. The criteria below are based on relevant guidance (see Technical Appendix 6.1 to the LVIA).

Innerwick Coast (includes Site)

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	Around one third of the Landscape Character Area (LCA) lies within Special Landscape Area (SLA) designations.	Regional/ community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	A small part of the northern section of the coastline within this LCA lies within a Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Geological Conservation Review Site. The wider LCA has no particular recognised value for Natural Heritage.	Regional/ community
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	Parts of two Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL), a historic battlefield, and the conservation area at cover just under half of the LCA. The SLA SPG lists <i>"a rich archaeological heritage"</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	Generally good condition with the cement works, Torness Power Station, the A1 and East Coast Main Line forming notable features. However, additional consented developments relating to the onshore works associated with Berwick Bank offshore wind farm, Branxton BESS and the convertor station and cable works Eastern Green Link electrical 'superhighway' will affect a wide extent of the central area of the LCA during their construction and introduce a number of new large-scale permanent infrastructure features.	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 to perceptions of natural beauty.	The presence of the John Muir Way is the only listed cultural association.	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
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.	This LCA forms a transition between the Lammermuir Hills and the coast. It forms a fairly typical example of coastline within this area of Scotland and north-east England.	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.	<i>"The John Muir way walking route follows the coastline for the entire length of this area. The area is highly accessible. The coastline is a popular recreational resource..." (SLA SPD).</i>	National/ regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particularly visual.	<i>"...extensive views from the predominantly unwooded plain towards the coast. The open sea dominates the views providing an atmosphere of tranquillity. The intrusive industrial development and the major transport corridor detract from the otherwise calm character of this landscape" (SLA SPD).</i>	Regional
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The area is rural with views of the sea providing elements of tranquillity. Industrial elements and major road corridors detract from this, and the additional consented developments will further add to the number of detractors.	Regional/ community
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.	Streams flow through the area to the sea, no particular landscape function.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional/ community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the Proposed Development may be in proportion	Small scale intimate landscapes	Medium to large scale landscape with expansive views.	Medium
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Transitional landscape of <i>"rolling lowlands cut by numerous steep-sided stream valleys"</i> (SLA SPD)	Medium/Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Generally open farmland with expansive views to sea, some more sheltered in valleys or provided by woodland.	Low
Land cover	Simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry). Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns.	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover. Complex or irregular patterns.	Mostly medium to large arable fields, with more intimate valley features concentrated more within the south of the LCA.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<i>"...much industrial development located along the coast"</i> (SLA SPG), including prominent industry, with additional consented large-scale infrastructure to be constructed. Transport corridors are also prominent. Minor settlements scattered farmsteads.	Medium/low
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Extensive views, mostly to the sea.	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	Low lying transitional landscape without distinctive landform.	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium/low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium/low

Eastern Lammermuir Fringe (includes Site)

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	Most of the LCA lies within SLAs.	Regional
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	<i>"...significant areas of ancient oak woodland"</i> (SLA SPG). SSSIs cover a small portion of the LCA with the wider area having no particular recognised value for Natural Heritage.	Community
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	A very small portion of the eastern and western edge of the LCA lies within a GDL. A small part of the LCA lies within a historic battlefield and a conservation area. Conservation estate at Spott is listed within the SLA SPG.	Community
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	Generally good condition.	Regional/ 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 to perceptions of natural beauty.	No notable cultural associations.	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.	<i>"Distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges"</i> (SLA SPG).	Regional/ 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.	A small number of core paths with no wider accessible routes.	Community
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particularly visual.	<i>"...fine open views"</i> (SLA SPG) to the sea, with no other listed scenic qualities.	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	Limited main roads, or larger settlements. Predominantly agricultural land.	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.	Watercourses in deep cloughs and small waterbodies, including reservoirs, are present across the LCA. However, there is no particular blue/green function.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Community
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the Proposed Development may be in proportion	Small scale intimate landscapes	Scale varies between the hill tops and steep valleys. Mostly large scale and open.	Medium/low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	<i>"The strongly moulded landform is composed of an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded low hills and slopes, dissected by an abundance of streams"</i> (SLA SPG).	Medium
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Generally an open landscape with some enclosure in valleys and localised depressions.	Medium/low
Land cover	Simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry). Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns.	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover. Complex or irregular patterns.	Generally simple landcover of fields and woodland, with greater complexity represented in the cleughs.	Medium/low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Limited built features. There is a contrast between traditional farmsteads and modern outbuildings. Small number of wind turbines in the south of the LCA and communications masts on top of hills.	Medium
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Expansive views to coast/sea from hill tops, with more limited views in valleys.	High/medium

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
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	Transitional landscape between upland and coastal plain. No noted focal points.	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium/low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium/low