

## TECHNICAL APPENDIX 8.2: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DEFINITION SENSITIVITY

**Table 1: Sensitivity Assessment of Landscape Character Type 17**

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
<b>LCT 17 COASTAL AGRICULTURAL PLAIN. – ABERDEENSHIRE</b>						
<b>PHYSICAL AND PERCEPTUAL</b>						
Scale	<i>Large, open, geometric fields.</i>	Large scale featureless landscape, broad valleys, gently undulation with large scale field pattern	*			Small scale, intimate landscape
Landform	<i>Low-lying and very gently undulating landform , with a pattern of subtle ridges and valleys in the northeast.</i>	Smooth regular flowing, flat, uniform landscape		*		Dramatic, undulating, rugged, complex landscapes
Land cover	<i>Mainly arable farming, with fairly extensive areas of moss and wetland. Large, open, geometric fields well settled. Occasional woodland.</i>	Extensive areas of simple regular uniform land cover		*		Complex, intimate or mosaic
Texture	<i>Gently undulating topography. Coniferous forest particularly extensive in southern part of the area. Limited broadleaf woodland, forming rare shelterbelts and small groups around farms.</i>	Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns	*			Complex or irregular pattern
Built Environment	<i>Well settled landscape of dispersed farms, many newer houses and a number of settlements, and occasional mansions in designed landscapes.</i>	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlement	*			Established, traditional or historic built form

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
	Occasional historic buildings, e.g. castles and old parish churches, cairn, motte.					
Presence of features which detract from the landscape	<i>Communication structures and tall masts on some higher ground, and power transmission lines radiating from Peterhead power station, which itself is highly visible.</i> <i>Major roads crossing the area.</i>	Major roads, electricity infrastructure, renewables, industrial development	*			Few features present
Perceptual aspects	<i>The proximity of the coast is perceived in the strong sense of openness, lightness and space. The high coastal dunes and sea are consistent features within views, particularly from the eastern-most parts of this character type. These views, together with the windswept exposure of the landscape, give a strong sense of the coastal context of this landscape.</i>	Busy, chaotic		*		Wild and Tranquil
Cultural associations	Various scenic/tourist trails present across the region taking in coastal views, historic assets.	None present		*		Artistic or literary associations

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
<b>VISUAL AMENITY</b>						
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	<i>Consistent views of high coastal dunes and sea, giving a strong coastal context.</i> Open extensive views present. <i>Gently undulating</i> farmland landscape with occasional woodland.	Generally low lying landscape without distinctive landform or horizon		*		Prominent skylines and views to landmark natural or built features  Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline
From the criteria listed above, Value and Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development are considered below:						
<b>VALUE</b>						
Refer to <b>Volume 4, Technical Appendix 8.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology, Table 1 Landscape Receptor Value</b>	Undesignated. Few features worthy of conservation. Few recreational opportunities, features of ecology and cultural heritage interest. Ordinary commonplace with potential for substitution.	Recognition: typically, an undesignated landscape/feature. Features: few worthy of conservation, evidence of degradation with many detracting features. Ordinary landscape with high potential for substitution.	*			Recognition: international or national, National Scenic Area, National Park, World Heritage Site.  Features: strong sense of place, with features worthy of conservation.  Very high-quality landscape.
<b>SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE</b>						
Refer to <b>Volume 4, Technical Appendix 8.1, Table 2 Susceptibility of the Landscape Receptor to Change</b>		High ability to accommodate the specific proposed change; little or no undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation (receptor value) and / or achievement of relevant planning policies/strategies.	*	*		Low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change; undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation (receptor value) and / or achievement of relevant planning policies/strategies.
The sensitivity of LCT 17 Coastal Agricultural Plain is considered to be <b>Medium to Low</b>						

**Table 2: Sensitivity Assessment of Landscape Character Subtype Urban Fringe**

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
<b>LANDSCAPE SUBTYPE: PETERHEAD URBAN FRINGE</b>						
<b>PHYSICAL AND PERCEPTUAL</b>						
Scale	Large scale featureless	Large scale featureless landscape, broad valleys, gently undulation with large scale field pattern	*			Small scale, intimate landscape .
Landform	Smooth flat landscape on elevated land	Smooth regular flowing, flat, uniform landscape	*			Dramatic, undulating, rugged, complex landscapes
Land cover	Mixed farmland interspersed with occasional industrial development, mainly alongside the A950 corridor, Longside airfield used for industrial storage	Extensive areas of simple regular uniform land cover		*		Complex, intimate or mosaic
Texture	<i>Gently undulating topography.</i> Occasional tree planting often associated with settlement.	Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns		*		Complex or irregular pattern
Built Environment	Industrial units, dispersed farms, newer houses, local distribution transmission lines	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlement	*			Established, traditional or historic built form

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
Presence of features which detract from the landscape	Commercial development. Communication structures and tall masts on some higher ground, and power transmission lines radiating from Peterhead power station, which itself is highly visible. Major road crossing the area	Major roads, electricity infrastructure, renewables, industrial development	*			Few features present
Perceptual aspects	Former disused airfield now used for industrial commercial uses. Development alongside the A950 corridor interspersed with occasional housing and farmsteads	Busy, chaotic	*			Wild and Tranquil
Cultural associations	Scenic/tourist trails present across the region taking in coastal views, historic assets, harbours.	None present		*		Artistic or literary associations
<b>VISUAL AMENITY</b>						
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Sited on elevated land, gently undulating, focal points on skyline are Peterhead Power Station, transmission towers	Generally low lying landscape without distinctive landform or horizon		*		Prominent skylines and views to landmark natural or built features  Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline
<b>From the criteria listed above, Value and Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development are considered below.</b>						

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
<b>VALUE</b>						
Refer to <b>Volume 4, Technical Appendix 8.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology, Table 1 Landscape Receptor Value</b>	Undesignated. Few features worthy of conservation. Few recreational opportunities, features of ecology and cultural heritage interest. Ordinary commonplace with potential for substitution.	Recognition: Typically, an undesignated landscape / feature. Features: Few worthy of conservation, evidence of degradation with many detracting features. Ordinary Landscape with high potential for substitution.	*			Recognition: International or national, National Scenic Area, National Park, WHS. Features: Strong sense of place, with features worthy of conservation. Very high quality landscape.
<b>SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE</b>						
Refer to <b>Volume 4, Technical Appendix 8.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology, Table 2 Susceptibility of the Landscape Receptor to Change</b>	A developed landscape with former airfield now used for industrial and commercial developments, occasional housing and farmsteads.	High ability to accommodate the specific proposed change; little or no undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation (receptor value) and / or achievement of relevant planning policies / strategies.	*			Low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change; undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation (receptor value) and / or achievement of relevant planning policies / strategies.
The sensitivity of Peterhead Urban Fringe is considered to be <b>Low</b>						

**Table 3: Sensitivity Assessment of Landscape Character Subtype Urban Fringe**

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
<b>LANDSCAPE SUBTYPE: RURAL</b>						
<b>PHYSICAL AND PERCEPTUAL</b>						
Scale	Large, open, geometric fields	Large scale featureless landscape, broad valleys, gently undulation with large scale field pattern	*			Small scale, intimate landscape
Landform	<i>Low-lying and very gently undulating landform</i>	Smooth regular flowing, flat, uniform landscape		*		Dramatic, undulating, rugged, complex landscapes
Land cover	Mainly arable farming; Large, open, geometric fields	Extensive areas of simple regular uniform land cover		*		Complex, intimate or mosaic
Texture	Gently undulating topography. Coniferous forest. Limited broadleaf woodland, forming rare shelterbelts and small groups around farms.	Simple and sweeping lines, linear features and patterns		*		Complex or irregular pattern
Built Environment	Well settled landscape of dispersed farms, many newer houses and settlements. Transmission towers, farms with large sheds.	Contemporary masts, transmission towers, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlement		*		Established, traditional or historic built form



Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
Presence of features which detract from the landscape	Large, open, geometric fields	Major roads, electricity infrastructure, renewables, industrial development	*			Few features present
Perceptual aspects	A rural landscape with isolated farmsteads undergoing change with large sheds, occasional wind turbines and transmission lines. Few ecology or heritage features.	Busy, chaotic		*		Wild and Tranquil
Cultural associations	Various scenic/tourist trails present across the region taking in coastal views, historic assets.	None present	*			Artistic or literary associations
<b>VISUAL AMENITY</b>						
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Gently undulating, focal points on skyline are Peterhead Power Station, transmission towers.	Generally low lying landscape without distinctive landform or horizon		*		Prominent skylines and views to landmark natural or built features. Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline.
From the criteria listed above, Value and Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development are considered below.						

Criteria affecting the sensitivity of the Landscape Types and Subtypes and the susceptibility to change and value	Characteristics of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Subtypes (quotes in italics are from the Naturescot Landscape Character Assessment (LCA))	Low Sensitivity	LOW	MED	HIGH	High Sensitivity
<b>VALUE</b>						
Refer to <b>Volume 4, Technical Appendix 8.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology, Table 1 Landscape Receptor Value</b>	Undesignated. Few features worthy of conservation. Few recreational opportunities, features of ecology and cultural heritage interest. Ordinary commonplace with potential for substitution.	Recognition: Typically, an undesignated landscape / feature. Features: Few worthy of conservation, evidence of degradation with many detracting features Ordinary Landscape with high potential for substitution	*			Recognition: International or national, National Scenic Area, National Park, WHS. Features: Strong sense of place, with features worthy of conservation. Very high quality landscape.
<b>SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE</b>						
Refer to <b>Volume 4, Technical Appendix 8.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology, Table 2 Susceptibility of the Landscape Receptor to Change</b>		High ability to accommodate the specific proposed change; little or no undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation (receptor value) and / or achievement of relevant planning policies / strategies.		*		Low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change; undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation (receptor value) and / or achievement of relevant planning policies / strategies.
The sensitivity of Rural is considered to be <b>Medium to Low</b>						