

## TECHNICAL APPENDIX 2.3: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

The sensitivity of the landscape character types 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 NatureScot's Landscape Character Assessment (any quotes are shown in italics) as well as from local sources and site assessment. The table below is based on guidance provided within LI TGN 02/21 - specifically table 1 within that document.

### Host Landscape- LCT 330: Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes - Ross & Cromarty

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Green Hydrogen Facility	Higher Sensitivity to Green Hydrogen Facility	Explanation	Judgement
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	The Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area is located within the LCT in the north of the study area.	National
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	The LCT has deep glacial till and peat deposits. There are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the LCT in the study area, including Easter Fearn in the north, and Struie Channels and Kinrive-Strathroy in the south. The Morangie Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) is found in the eastern extents of the LCT.	National
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	Large number of archaeological features, including prehistoric and medieval, on lower ground.	National
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 in good condition and although there are scattered man-made structures throughout, there are also elements of a wild and natural landscape.	National/Regional
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or	Within the eastern part of the LCT, there are remains of early prehistoric burial cairns and later prehistoric field systems and hut circles.	Regional

		the arts, which contribute 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/to with an important relationship to a settlement.	The undulating landform, widespread upland moorland and remote interior areas, have a sense of distinctiveness.	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.	The Moray Firth Tourist Long Distance Route and several Core Paths are located within the LCT.	National
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	Undulating skyline formed by rounded hills, broad straths and sweeping upland moorlands. Views to extensive mountain groups and the vast landscape are experienced when this LCT joins with the Rounded Mountain Massif LCT and the Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross & Cromarty LCT.	Regional
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	Interior areas have a sense of wildness, given its vast scale and remoteness. There are views to scattered settlement and man-made structures from more elevated, open areas.	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 Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area consists of Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) and Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS) woodland. Additional areas of AWI are found in the south of the study area and NWSS woodland either side of the B9176.  Although not natural, there are also large areas of plantation within the LCT.	National

**Overall Judgement of Value**
**National/  
Regional**
**Susceptibility**

Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	Medium to large scale landscape, of a much greater scale than the Proposed Development.	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Broad, rounded hills between 400 to 650 metres in height, which connect to extensive areas of upland woodland. Meandering rivers are found across wide straths, in contrast to deep gullies.	Medium/Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The hills form a sense of enclosure in parts, although there is a strong feeling of openness and exposure from elevated parts and wide straths.	Medium
Land cover	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	Extensive areas of uniform moorland vegetation with woodland patches, riparian woodland, coniferous forests on lower hill slopes and self-seeding trees surrounded by heather. Some improved pastures within broad straths.	Medium
Complexity and patterns	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Relatively simple landscape, consisting of broad, rounded hills and large areas of uniform moorland vegetation.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Small settlements and clusters of traditional buildings around road and rail infrastructure, with occasional trunk roads in major straths.	Medium
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	There are extensive views from hill slopes and summits and along wide straths. Areas of woodland and plantation do however form enclosure towards lower hill slopes.	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	The hills form an undulating skyline, with pylons and wind farms visible in some elevated views.	High
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity</b>				<b>High/Medium</b>