Appendix 6.3: Assessment of Effects on Wild Land Qualities of Hoy Wild Land Area

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Appendix 6.3: Assessment of Effects on Wild Land Qualities of Hoy Wild Land Area

Introduction

Overview of Approach

Wild Land effects are considered in this Appendix 6.3 of the LVIA in respect of Hoy Wild Land Area (WLA).

The assessment follows guidance set out in SNH's draft version of 'Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Technical Guidance' (2017) ('the 2017 Draft Guidance'). SNH, on its website, states that the 2017 Draft Guidance is the appropriate guidance to be applied in the assessment of effects on WLAs in place of the original 2007 Guidance and while responses on the 2017 Draft Guidance are considered.

Consultations have been undertaken with SNH to determine the appropriate guidance and methodology for the wild land assessment. SNH have advised that the 2017 Draft Guidance should be used as the starting point for any wild land assessment. In previous consultation, SNH has pointed to the use of the methodology adopted for the recent wild land assessment for the Limekiln Windfarm (OPEN/Infinergy, 2018) as a good practice model and it is this methodology that OPEN has adopted for the assessment of the Hoy WLA (41) in this Appendix, based on the approach taken for Limekiln Windfarm and the 2017 Draft Guidance.

In the 2017 Draft Guidance, SNH indicates that the assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA 3), which is a notable departure from advice presented in the previous 2007 approach. This sets out guidance for an approach to wild land assessment that is widely recognised and supported. However, it is also an approach that advocates the application of reasoned judgement by a suitably qualified landscape professional (GLVIA paragraph 2.24), which is likely to involve a greater degree of subjective interpretation than is the case with the 2007 Guidance, which is more prescriptive in approach.

GLVIA 3 enables an assessor to use a well-tested approach to establish the likelihood of significant effects arising through, firstly, establishing the sensitivity of a landscape resource or visual receptor, before then identifying the magnitude of change upon it, having regard to a range of criteria. This approach is acknowledged in paragraph 25 of the 2017 Draft Guidance: "*The overall judgement of significance should reflect the sensitivity of the wild land qualities within WLAs and the magnitude/extent of effect.*"

In establishing the significance of effects on WLAs, judgements have to be made on the 'sensitivity' of the wildness qualities of the landscape, in respect of the 'value' of the resource or view and its 'susceptibility' to the type of change that is proposed; and by assessing the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development. The assessment of impacts on the Hoy WLA (41) is informed by more detailed consideration of the specific nature of the Proposed Development. Fundamentally, these judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of change are considered as per the criteria set out in OPEN's LVIA Methodology in Appendix 6.1, concerning the assessment of landscape effects.

WLAs – Attributes, Responses and Qualities

The Wild Land Assessment requires specific judgements to be made in considering the effects on particular 'wild land qualities'. WLAs are based on the concept that wildness is a product of people's perceptual response to certain physical attributes in the landscape. 'Physical attributes' and 'perceptual responses' are therefore used as the measure by which changes in experience are assessed.

As acknowledged in SNH's Advice to Government in 2014, capturing the quality of wildness is a subjective matter that requires informed judgements. This is because people respond differently according to their individual experience and expectations. There is, however, sufficient agreement to enable a set of attributes and responses to be identified, that can be assessed if presented in a systematic, transparent and consistent way. The 2017 Draft Guidance presents the following physical attributes in relation to WLAs:

- A high degree of perceived naturalness;
- The lack of modern human artefacts or structures;
- Little evidence of contemporary land uses;
- Landform which is rugged, or otherwise physically challenging; and
- Remoteness and / or inaccessibility.

The perceptual responses evoked by these physical attributes include:

- A sense of sanctuary or solitude;
- Risk or, for some visitors, a sense of awe or anxiety;
- Perceptions that the landscape has arresting or inspiring qualities; and
- Fulfilment from the physical challenge required to penetrate into these places.

These physical attributes are considered to be strongly enough expressed, and of sufficient extent, to evoke the full range of perceptual responses in WLAs. The term 'Wild Land Qualities (WLQs)' encompasses both physical attributes and perceptual responses – reflecting that it is a combination of factors that contributes to the value and appreciation of wildness. Development located outwith WLAs may only impact on perceptual responses to a WLA (since it cannot directly change the physical attributes of a WLA).

SNH has produced published descriptions of each WLA which set out their particular WLQs. The published description of the Hoy WLA (41) forms the starting point for an assessment of impacts on the Hoy WLA (41) in this Appendix 6.3.

Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Technical Guidance (2017): Summary

The assessment follows the approach set out in the 2017 Draft Guidance, with reference to SNH's 'Description of Wild Land Areas' (2017) for Hoy WLA (41).

A summary of the 2017 Draft Guidance is presented below, in order to establish the status of WLAs, set out the expected scope of the WLA assessment and understand the extent to which wind farms can influence WLAs.

The status of WLAs is clearly set out in Para 8. '*WLAs have not been identified on scenic grounds and are not a statutory designation'*. WLAs are instead considered a mapped interest.

There is also an acceptance that WLAs are not 'wilderness' and that human influences do form part of their baseline character. This is expressed in the response to question 4 in Annex 1:

'…they contain some evidence of past occupation, contemporary use and/or land management. This can include among other things, buildings (derelict and still used), tracks, hydro-electricity, infrastructure, and evidence of sporting and grazing management. Similarly, some development outwith WLAs can be seen from parts of the WLAs. Despite the evidence of these developments (either within or outwith a WLA), it is sufficiently light and of limited extent that the range of strength of wild land qualities remains well expressed within the WLAs.'

The key phrase is '*sufficiently light and of limited extent'* as this presents a measure by which to assess the existing influence of existing developments on the WLA. In considering the Hoy WLA (41), while there is a core area in which there is little evidence of human influences, the small size of the WLA means that external influences do penetrate into this area, especially in the south-east where, the strength of physical attributes is shown to be weak owing to the presence of a mast, a single turbine, settlement, roads, agricultural land-uses and a ferry terminal in this south-east corner, and oil turbine and single turbine on nearby Flotta.

Whether a WLA assessment is needed at all is discussed in paragraph 5, with the need considered to be highly likely where the Proposed Development falls wholly or partly within a WLA. In contrast, where the Proposed Development falls outwith the WLA "*…the need for an assessment will be more the exception and may only be necessary where significant effects on WLA qualities are likely.*" In respect of the Proposed Development, the Hoy WLA (41) has been scoped in, owing to the location of T4 within the WLA boundary and the remaining turbines close to the boundary.

Another point made in terms of the potential scope of the assessment relates to the fact that effects on WLAs can only be experienced from within WLAs and not on the area surrounding them. Paragraph 21: *"The impact of development outwith a WLA will require careful justification and consideration. A wild land assessment should only consider effects on the qualities of the WLA as they are experienced from it, not from outwith it. This is in contrast to a scenic or landscape designation, whose appreciation from outwith is part of the standard LVIA approach*".

The technical guidance also notes the following in Paragraph 1; "*As perceptual responses cannot be mapped, physical attributes were used to inform the preparation of the 2014 map of wild land areas*." And in Paragraph 2: "*Development outwith WLAs may only impact on perceptual responses."*

In considering the two comments above, the logical conclusion is that if a development is located outwith a WLA it cannot impact on the physical attributes, although there may be impacts on the perceptual responses. In respect of the Proposed Development it will have direct effects on the physical attributes as well as indirect effects on the perceptual responses of the Hoy WLA (41). The assessment of effects on physical attributes and perceptual responses has been conducted through site work within the Hoy WLA (41).

The technical guidance discusses the subjectivity involved in the assessment of perceptual responses. Paragraph 23 states "*The subjective nature of wildness underlines the need for judgements on effects to be transparent and understandable, so that the underlying assumptions and reasoning can be understood by others. When evaluating the significance of effects, the subjective nature of perceptual responses should be taken into account."* The acceptance of the

subjectivity involved in the assessment of perceptual responses suggests that different assessors may conclude different findings.

In terms of the susceptibility of a WLA to the effects from a Proposed Development outwith its boundary, the following comment in paragraph 25 would suggest that this is limited. *"The protection of wild land qualities as set out in SPP, means that only in exceptional circumstances relating to scale, siting or design will development outwith WLAs have a significant effect."*

Methodology

Value of Wild Land

Wild Land is recognised in SPP and planning policy as a nationally important mapped interest (not a designation), which should be afforded protection for its wildness qualities, but it is not statutorily protected in the way that National Parks and National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are for their scenic qualities. In applying GLVIA 3 it is necessary to attribute 'value' to the receptor ('high', 'medium' or 'low' etc), where the value attributed to nationally important designations, including NPs and NSAs is normally found to be at the upper end of the scale, or 'high'.

In an attempt to bring some objectivity to the attribution of value in wild land areas, it is helpful to have regard to the weighting that SPP gives to it. Whereas in SPP Table 1: Spatial Frameworks, Scottish Ministers place National Parks and National Scenic Areas in the Group 1 category, Wild Land Areas are identified as a Group 2 consideration, recognising the difference in their respective values. As a matter of national policy, Wild Land is less highly valued than National Scenic Areas and National Parks.

It is relevant to note that Scottish Ministers and SNH both envisage a situation where some development of wind farms within WLAs may be acceptable, in some circumstances. Annex 1 to SNH's publication 'Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – Natural Heritage Considerations, Guidance' (June 2015) confirms, in relation to the landscape objectives for accommodation of wind farms in the Scottish landscape, that WLAs (unlike NSAs) may be considered in a category of landscapes which can accommodate wind farms: "*Within local landscape designations and Wild land Areas, the degree of landscape protection will be less than for National Scenic Areas. In these areas, an appropriate objective may be to accommodate wind farms, rather than seek landscape protection."* It is also clear from recent decisions that Scottish Ministers do not consider wind farms and WLA to be incompatible, even when significant effects are found.

It is also clear from SPP that WLAs do not benefit from a degree of protection that would necessarily rule out wind farm development close to their boundaries. Wild land policy provided by SPP principally relates to development proposals within WLAs, or otherwise, and the consideration of wild land in development plan preparation.

WLAs are, therefore, considered to have a lower inherent baseline value, in landscape terms, than nationally designated landscapes. In the terms of GLVIA 3 and OPEN's Methodology, it is reasonable to attribute a medium to high value to the WLQs of the Hoy WLA (41). An NSA would be attributed a 'high' value, by comparison. This category of value is described with reference to the factors that are considered in the determination of 'value' in Appendix 6.1 LVIA Methodology. In OPEN's approach this value is applied uniformly across the WLA resource, on the basis that all parts have the same value. This combines with individual assessments of susceptibility to inform the assessment of sensitivity to changes to WLQs at key locations tested through viewpoint assessments.

'Susceptibility' of Wild Land

The susceptibility of Wild Land to the effects of the Proposed Development relates both to the susceptibility of the physical attributes that contribute to the WLQs and the perceptual responses to these WLQs that visual receptors will experience from within the WLA. The consideration of susceptibility, therefore, considers the ability of the WLA to accommodate the changes that would occur as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development, as well as the nature of the viewer and how susceptible they are to the potential effects of the Proposed Development. Susceptibility varies across the WLA depending on the particular physical attributes and perceptions that are experienced and in the context of different external influences. OPEN's Methodology assesses susceptibility in relation to landscape and visual receptors through the application of the criteria set out in 6.1 LVIA Methodology:

Whilst not specifically devised for assessments within wild land areas, these criteria provide some reference, but they do not seek to gauge how someone would respond to a range of physical attributes and perceptual responses from the point of view of experiencing wild land as a resource. SNH's 2017 Draft guidance does not provide any advice as to how this aspect of the GLVIA 3 should be accommodated. In the absence of this, and because SNH's approach relies on GLVIA 3, the approach to susceptibility relies to a large extent on the perceptions recorded in the published WLA descriptions, as well as experienced during site work. It is accepted that no people live within the Hoy WLA (41), for example, so residential properties are not a valid consideration.

Magnitude of change

The magnitude of change to Wild Land arising from the introduction of the Proposed Development relates both to the magnitude of change to the physical attributes that contribute to the WLQs and the perceptual responses to these WLQs that visual receptors will experience from within the WLA. The consideration of magnitude of change, therefore, considers the scale of the change that would result from the Proposed Development and is dependent on a number of variables regarding the size or scale of the change. OPEN's Methodology assesses magnitude of change in relation to landscape and visual receptors through the application of the criteria set out in 6.1 LVIA Methodology. The methodology for the assessment of magnitude of change also has regard to the geographical extent, duration and reversibility of the effect.

Significance of effects

As the Proposed Development is located partly within the boundary of Hoy WLA (41), it will have direct effects on the physical attributes of the WLA. As it can also be seen from locations across Hoy WLA (41), it has the potential to give rise to indirect, perceptual effects which affect how parts of the wild land area and its wildness qualities are perceived. In this way the Proposed Development could affect a person's perceptual responses in different ways from different parts of Hoy WLA (41). WLQs are derived from both the physical attributes and perceptual responses, as confirmed in paragraph 11 of the 2017 Draft Guidance:

"The term wild land qualities encompasses both physical attributes and perceptual responses – reflecting that it is a combination of factors that contributes to the value and appreciation of wildness."

Again, on the basis that the use of GLVIA 3 is required, the methodology for the assessment of visual effects is set out in Appendix 6.1 LVIA Methodology. The significance of the effect on each view or visual receptor is dependent on factors that are considered in the sensitivity of the receptor and the

magnitude of change. These factors are combined using professional judgement to arrive at an assessment as to whether the Proposed Development will have a significant, or not significant, effect on the view or visual receptor. The matrix shown in Table A6.1.1 (Appendix 6.1) is also used to inform the threshold of significance when combining sensitivity and magnitude of change.

A significant effect will occur where the combination of the variables results in the Proposed Development having a defining effect on the perception of wildness attributes in a view. A not significant effect will occur where the effect of the Proposed Development is not definitive, and the view continues to be characterised principally by its baseline characteristics. In this instance the Proposed Development may have an influence on the view, but this influence will not be a defining or significant one, in terms of the EIA.

The assessment of visual effects assumes clear weather and optimum viewing conditions. This means that effects that are assessed to be significant may be not significant under different, less clear conditions. Viewing conditions and visibility tend to vary considerably and therefore the likelihood of effects resulting from the Proposed Development will vary greatly dependent on the prevailing viewing conditions.

Approach to cumulative effects

As assessed in the LVIA, operational and under-construction wind farms are considered as part of the baseline situation in the assessment of impacts on the Hoy WLA (41), while the consented and application wind farms are considered as part of the predicted cumulative situation.

The Cumulative Wind Farm plan in Figure 6.12 highlights the limited number and size of wind farm developments within the study area. The only two developments in the first 15 km radius of the Proposed Development are the operational turbines at Ore Brae on Hoy and West Hill on Flotta. The fact that these are both single turbines, Ore Brae at 67m to blade tip and West Hill at 100m, means that the influence they have on the cumulative situation is limited. Between 15 and 20 km, there is only one other operational development - a single turbine at Northfield on Burray. There are also two under-construction single turbines, Akla at 15 km to the north-east and Berriedale at 18 km to the east. Again, the small scale of these developments means that they will have a limited influence on the cumulative situation.

Consented Hesta Head is a larger development, set at 18 km to the south-east and comprising 5 turbines at 125 m. The cumulative ZTV for this development is presented in Figure 6.13. The viewshed of the landform around Scapa Flow lies at approximately 15 to 25 km, such that inter-visibility with developments that lie in or beyond this radius is typically limited. This is true of the application wind farm at Quanterness which comprises 6 turbines at 149.9m, but as shown on the cumulative ZTV in Figure 6.14, presents very little inter-visibility with the Proposed Development.

There are more operational and proposed wind farms on the Mainland of Scotland, which are visible in good conditions from open shorelines and facing hill slopes of the closer Orkney Islands. Their separation distance of between 20 and 40 km combined with their location on a separate, larger and more developed island moderates their influence on the cumulative situation.

The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development on the wildness qualities of the Hoy WLA has been scoped out of the assessment. The very limited occurrence and size of operational, under construction, consented and application wind farms, combined with the distance of most of these from the Proposed Development, means that there is no potential for the Hoy WLA (41) to give rise to significant cumulative effects.

The WLA Assessment Process

Table A6.3.1 summarises the approach taken when assessing the impacts on the Hoy WLA (41).

Table A6.3.1: Approach to assessing impacts on Hoy WLA (41)

Step	Approach
Step 1 - Define the WLA study area and scope of the assessment	Identify a WLA study area appropriate to the scale of development and extent of likely significant effects on the WLA.
Step 2 – Establish the baseline	Confirm the wild land qualities of the WLA study area and the nature of their contribution to the WLA. The assessment should identify which qualities are likely to be significantly affected by the proposal.
Step 3 – Assess the sensitivity of the WLA study area	Identify which wild land qualities of the WLA, including the physical attributes and perceptual responses that contribute to those qualities, are most sensitive to the type and scale of change proposed.
Step 4 – Assess the effects	Given the size or scale of change, extent and duration, describe effects on individual qualities and / or combinations of qualities, drawing out which physical attributes and perceptual responses will be affected and how, and potential for mitigation.

Assessment of Effects on Hoy WLA

Wild Land effects are assessed in this section in respect of the Hoy WLA (41), applying the steps to the wild land assessment set out in SNH's 2017 Draft Guidance (summarised in Table A6.3.1).

Step 1: Define the Study Area and Scope of the Assessment

SNH's 2017 Draft Guidance requires the establishment of a study area at the outset of the assessment that is appropriate to the scale of development and "*extent of likely significant effects on the WLA".* If SNH's 2017 Draft Guidance is followed, the study area would comprise those parts of Hoy WLA (41) related to the known extent of likely significant effects of the Proposed Development. This corresponds with the areas of highest visibility as represented in the ZTV of the Proposed Development in Figures 6.5a, 6.5b and 6.10 (A1 size). The study area would comprise the eastern and southern parts of the WLA and generally coincide with areas where wildness qualities are less strongly expressed largely owing to existing human influences along the eastern coast.

OPEN does not think that such an approach would address the information that is required to satisfactorily assess the likely effect on Hoy WLA (41) as a whole, so it has instead applied the whole of the Hoy WLA (41) as the study area but has subdivided it into two relevant sub-areas, which are marked on Figures 6.8a, 6.8b and 6.10, and listed below.

- Sub-area East; and
- Sub-area West.

Sub-area East comprises the area that falls to the east of the ridgeline that runs through central Hoy. It is defined by the ridgeline that extends from Knap of Trowieglen (399 m) in the north, through Withi Gill (359 m) in the centre to Bakingstone Hill (152 m) in the south. Although the hills have

broad summits, the ridgeline, does, nonetheless, create a viewshed between the east of the WLA and the west of the WLA. The eastern half consists of moorland hills which fall towards the eastern coastline, as well as gradually diminish in elevation from north to south. There are some human influences on this eastern half of the WLA, increasing in intensity towards the east and the south.

Sub-area West comprises the area that falls to the west of the ridgeline, as described above. This area consists of moorland hills which fall towards the western coastline, as well as gradually diminishing in elevation from north to south. Between the east to west ridgelines, Summer Burn and Burn of Forse create valleys in the landform in which there is a special sense of remoteness and wildness. The Cliffs LCT along the west coast is especially wild and remote with dramatic coastal scenery. There are very few human influences evident in these landscapes.

Step 2: Establish the Baseline

Overview – Hoy WLA (41)

The published description of the Hoy WLA (41) (SNH, 2017) provides the following overview which emphasises the difference in character between the east and west of the WLA:

"Hoy is one of 11 island Wild Land Areas (WLA), and at 50 km^2 one of the smallest nationally, reached by ferry from Mainland (Orkney). The area is broadly oblong in shape and includes the interior hills of the island. One of 12 WLAs defined in part by the coast, access from the road is restricted to the north, east and south.

The high hills and cliffs of Hoy stand out within an archipelago of otherwise low-lying islands, and it provides a remote western edge to Scapa Flow. Upon the island itself, Hoy differs between its west and east sides: on the east are the main settlements and key road (B9047) across the island, in addition to industry and agriculture, set around the sheltered bays and sounds within Scapa Flow; whilst, on the west, the interior and coast is open, elevated and uninhabited.

Hoy, like the rest of the Orkney Isles, is formed of Old Red Sandstone, built up as layers of sediment mixed in with ancient lava flows. This is revealed most spectacularly along the exposed cliffs of the west coast, which are amongst the highest cliffs found in the UK.

Orkney possesses a long history of occupation, with a high number of archaeological features. The wild land qualities of the WLA, however, are not strongly influenced by historic features, apart from the northern edge towering above the Dwarfie Stane, an unusual rock-cut tomb.

The Hoy hills form an undeveloped backdrop to adjacent coastal communities and roads. During good visibility, the hills and western cliffs are also very prominent from Caithness and the ferry between Scrabster and Stromness, from which their towering height seems awe-inspiring. There are regular vehicular and passenger ferry services between Hoy and mainland Orkney, some of which travel via the islands of Graemsay or Flotta.

Hoy attracts a relatively high number of visitors, particularly to Lyness, Rackwick, the RSPB reserve in the north of the island and to the Old Man of Hoy. Within the WLA itself, however, there tends to be few visitors – partly because there are no constructed paths into the area and thus access is very challenging, but also because the area tends to be overlooked in favour of the hills and coast north of Rackwick, which include the Old Man of Hoy and Ward Hill, the island's highest peak. The northern part of the WLA lies within the Orkney National Scenic Area, whose description highlights that '…with their towering red cliffs, the Atlantic coastline creates a spectacular scene…' It also describes that,

'…with their corries, deep U-shaped valleys and pattered ground, these rugged, moorland hills reflect their glacial history'."

Wildness Mapping – Hoy WLA (41)

A map of Wild Land Areas in Scotland was published by SNH in 2014 and is based on analysis of data representing the physical attributes of wild land, undertaken in February 2014. Mapping of the Hoy WLA (41) and its immediate surrounds are presented in Figures 6.11a to 6.11e. The maps are a snap-shot at that point in time and do not reflect changes in development or land use since the data was captured. In broad terms the approach adopted by SNH, takes each of the physical attributes in turn, identifies existing datasets that can best represent these, and separately maps each of them (Figures 6.11b to 6.11e) before combining all four of them in a single map of relative wildness (Figure 6.11a).

- Perceived naturalness (Figure 6.11b) – most of the Hoy WLA (41) is rated as having a medium level of perceived naturalness and it is outwith the WLA boundary that higher levels occur, for example around Rackwick to the north-west, the middle reaches of Pegal Burn and Lyrawa Burn to the east and around Binga Fea (154 m) to the south-east. Lower levels also occur outwith the WLA boundary, in concentrated patches along the east coast and most notably around Lyness in the south-east, where there is more settlement, derelict naval buildings, roads and a ferry terminal.
- Rugged or challenging terrain (Figure 6.11c) – a distinct pattern emerges in this plan which reflects the two key LCTs present in the WLA, with the Moorland Hills LCT rated low for rugged or challenging terrain, while the steep and high Cliffs LCT is rated high. The Moorland Hills LCT covers most of the WLA and its low hills and gently graded slopes reduce the challenging nature of walking in this landscape, although the lack of paths and deep vegetation add some degree of difficulty. In contrast, the steep, sheer and high cliffs on the west coast present much more of a challenge to walkers and are, therefore, rated high.
- Remoteness from public mechanised transport (Figure 6.11d) – this plan shows a gradual gradation from a medium to low level of remoteness around the northern, eastern and southern edges of the WLA, where roads and tracks exist, gradually increasing to medium, with distance from these edges, and with a localised patch of medium to high occurring on Withi Gill (359 m) at the core of the WLA and down through the sheltered valley of Burn of Forse to the west coast.
- Lack of built modern artefacts (Figure 6.11e) – the plan shows that most of the Hoy WLA (41) has medium levels of lack of built modern artefacts, highlighting the influence of the roads and settlement along the eastern, northern and southern edges. Development associated with the historic naval base at Lyness, extends up the hillside to reduce the rating in the area to the south-east of the WLA boundary, where the proposed Site is located. The area with the highest rating occurs within the sheltered valley of Summer Burn, in the north-west of the WLA, where the influence of modern artefacts is notably lower. The influence of operational single turbines built since February 2014 is also not reflected in the mapping, which have increased the presence of built modern artefacts in the surrounding landscape experienced from the tops and upper slopes of the Hoy WLA.
- Relative wildness (Figures 6.11a) - combining the above attributes in a single map of relative wildness, shows areas of highest perceived wildness within the Hoy WLA (41), occurring as a very narrow band along the western coastal edge where the high cliffs occur. There is also an area of high relative wildness within the north-west of the WLA, coinciding with the valley of Summer Burn and around Whitefowl Hill (277 m). This relates to the visual separation of this small area from the human influences which occur to the north, east and south. Relative wildness diminishes to the east and to the south, where levels of relative wildness are shown to be mostly medium, reflecting the increasing influence of roads and settlement, as well as agriculture and industry along the coastal edge.

LVIA Baseline Information

SNH's published description for the Hoy WLA (41) (SNH, 2017) and the 2014 Wildness Mapping provides a valuable resource in establishing the baseline of the Hoy WLA (41). The baseline described in this assessment is also informed by site specific desk study and fieldwork undertaken within the Hoy WLA (41) as part of the LVIA and Wild Land Assessment for the Proposed Development. The LVIA provides useful material to inform understanding of the baseline conditions particularly with regards to both representative viewpoints within the WLA and the influence of operational developments in the baseline landscape around Hoy WLA (41).

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

ZTV mapping is used to identify the geographical extent of the Hoy WLA (41) that will gain theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, as shown in Figure 6.5a and 5b (A3 size) and Figure 6.10 (A1 size). There are three representative viewpoints located in Hoy WLA (41): 1: Knap of Trowieglen, Viewpoint 13: Bakingstone Hill and Viewpoint 16: Withi Gill.

The openness of the moorland hills, which characterise Hoy WLA, means that theoretical visibility will largely reflect actual visibility. The Blade Tip ZTV presents the general pattern in which visibility is more concentrated in Sub-area East, than in Sub-area West, and also more concentrated in the south of Sub-area East than in the north. This means visibility is most concentrated in the south-east quadrant, and then large but less continuous patches occurring in the north-east quadrant, patchier visibility occurring in the south-west quadrant and barely any visibility occurring in the north-west quadrant.

The large and continuous patch of visibility occurring across the south-east corner of the WLA, extends north-east to south-west from Moi Fea through Sky Fea (144 m) to Bakingstone Hill (152 m). This area is closest to the Proposed Development and lies within the immediate viewshed of this local landscape.

Visibility beyond this south-east corner occurs in bands across the WLA, following a broadly west to east alignment in the eastern half, and a north-east to south-west alignment in the western half. This pattern reflects the alignment of the bands of hills and valleys, with visibility occurring across the south-facing slopes but not the north-facing slopes, and increasingly screening visibility from the intermediate valleys as the scale of the hills rise further north.

In Sub-area East, the ridgeline between Moi Fea and Sky Fea (244 m) screens visibility across the immediate northern slopes and valleys beyond, with visibility also occurring at the head of Tongue Vale. Broader bands of continuous visibility then occur across the south-facing slopes above West Dale, Burn of Withigill and North Dale, with the north-east to south-west ridge through Withi Gill (359 m) forming the outer limit to this patch of visibility at an approximate distance of 4 km. Visibility is then screened across the northern slopes and the lower southern slopes above Glifters of Pegal, which together form a relatively broad band. At a distance of approximately 6 km, visibility from the summit of Knap of Trowieglen (399 m) extends as a narrower band, eastwards along the ridgeline where there becomes gradually less but closer range visibility. Visibility is screened by this further ridge from the northern slopes and the southern slopes above Glifters of Lyrawa. In the north-east corner of the WLA, a larger patch of visibility occurs across Vow Randie and the southern slopes of Kingie Lang (280 m), albeit at a minimum distance of approximately 5 km from the Proposed Development.

In Sub-area West, while there are some substantial patches of visibility in the south, these dissipate rapidly with distance northwards. Along the southern boundary of the WLA, visibility extends from the summit of Bakingstone Hill (152 m) across the northern slopes around Heldale Water to the only patch on the west coast where theoretical visibility occurs, with proposed turbines seen from a small area at a minimum distance of approximately 4.7 km. A broad band of no visibility occurs to the north and west of Bakingstone Hill (152 m) before a narrower band of visibility extends along the north-east to south-west ridgeline through the summit of Genie Fea (236 m) located at a distance of approximately 3.3 km. Further north-west, an even broader band of no visibility occurs across the slopes enclosing Burn of Forse, albeit with a patch of visibility extending into the eastern side of Sub-area West from the ridgeline through Withi Gill (359 m). While visibility extends along the north-east to south-west ridgeline extending from Red Hill of Sneuk to the coast, levels of visibility are typically low with only a small patch indicating visibility of six turbines from a minimum distance of approximately 5.5 km. Visibility becomes even less widespread and extensive further north, with one small patch of low level visibility occurring on Whitefowl Hill (277 m) from a minimum distance of approximately 6.7 km.

A summary of the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the Hoy WLA (41) is provided in Table A6.3.2. This shows that the area with theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from Sub-area East is 33.32% and from Sub-area West 8.30% of the total Hoy WLA (41).

Table 6.3.2 Visibility of the Proposed Development from Hoy WLA (41)

Sub-Area	Area (in ha)	% of total Hoy WLA (41)	Theoretically visible area in (ha)	Theoretical Visibility % of total Hoy WLA (41)
Sub-area East	2470.43	49.51%	1662.68	33.32%
Sub-area West	2519.65	50.49%	414.13	8.30%
Total	**4990.08**	**100.00%**	**2076.80**	**41.62%**

Representative viewpoints

Representative viewpoints are included in the LVIA to cover points of specific importance within the WLA and to inform the definition of the likely extent of significant effects arising from the Proposed Development. Three representative viewpoints are included in the LVIA within Hoy WLA (41), which illustrate the baseline panoramas and wildness qualities across the two sub-areas of the WLA. All three of these viewpoints lie on the central cusp between the Sub-area East and Sub-area West and full baseline descriptions are presented in Section 6.13 of the LVIA.

- Viewpoint 1: Knap of Trowieglen (Figure 6.15). Representative of the view experienced from Sub-area East and Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41). At 399 m, the summit of Knap of Trowieglen is the highest hill in the Moorland Hills LCT of Hoy. There is little evidence to suggest that this hill is frequently climbed by hillwalkers, and although the minor road through the U-shaped valley to the north, provides access onto the base of the hill, there are no paths.
- Viewpoint 13: Bakingstone Hill (Figure 6.27). Representative of the view experienced from Sub-area East and Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41). Located near the summit of Bakingstone Hill (152 m), this viewpoint is representative of the views experienced by hill walkers, although there is little evidence to

suggest that this hill is frequently climbed. Although a low hill, the view is channelled along the valley of the Burn of Ore to Wee Fea where the Site is located.

- Viewpoint 16: Withi Gill (Figure 6.30). Representative of the view experienced from Sub-area East and Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41). Located near the summit of Withi Gill (359 m), this viewpoint is representative of the views experienced by hill walkers, although there is little evidence to suggest that this hill is frequently climbed. This hill sits in the core of the WLA.

A combination of baseline panorama, wireline and full photomontage visualisations has been produced for Viewpoint 1 and Viewpoint 13, to meet the requirements of SNH Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2, December 2017) as shown in EIAR Volume 2 (Figure 6.15 and Figure 6.27). Wirelines have been produced for Viewpoint 16 (Figure 6.30), as no photomontage was requested by SNH from this area. Full written analysis of visual effects has been undertaken in the LVIA for these representative viewpoints.

Four further illustrative viewpoints are included as cumulative wirelines to support this appendix. Their purpose is to illustrate the views experienced from other parts of Sub-area East and Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41). Illustrative viewpoints are chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issue (including restricted visibility).

- Illustrative Viewpoint 17: West Dale (Figure 6.31). Located in Sub-area East and included at the request of SNH.
- Illustrative Viewpoint 18: North Dale (Figure 6.32). Located in Sub-area East and included at the request of SNH.
- Illustrative Viewpoint 19: Genie Fea (Figure 6.33). Located in Sub-area West and included to represent the extents of visibility in this more remote area.
- Illustrative Viewpoint 20: Whitefowl Hill (Figure 6.34). Located in Sub-area West and included to represent the extents of visibility in this more remote area.

Step 3: Assess the Sensitivity of the Study Area

The 2017 Draft Guidance requires the assessor to establish which WLQs, including the physical attributes and perceptual responses, that contribute to those qualities, are most sensitive to the type and scale of change proposed. GLVIA 3 methodology defines sensitivity as a combination of the value of the receptor and its susceptibility to the Proposed Development. The value of the WLQs of the WLA, as a whole, was established, under the Methodology on page 4, as medium to high.

As the WLQs vary, in terms of the strength and intensity to which they can be perceived across the WLA, so too must the susceptibility to change that is assessed for them as a result of the Proposed Development.

Sub-area East

In relation to Sub-area East, the majority of the wildness qualities are expressed to a lesser degree than in Sub-area West. This is because of the extent of human influences which occur along the eastern and southern edges of Sub-area East. The presence of the B9047 along the eastern coast of Hoy, and settlement and agricultural practices around the south-east corner weaken the perceptual responses associated with the wildness qualities. Furthermore, the presence of the Binga Fea mast, the Ore Brae turbine, the Heldale Water Treatment Plant and track, the Lyness Ferry terminal and wave energy converters, as well as the oil terminal and mast on nearby Flotta and ferries, tankers and fishing boats, on inshore waters, notably reduce the susceptibility of the southern part of Hoy

WLA (41) as the perceptual responses of remoteness, sanctuary and naturalness are already weak. In the central and northern parts of Sub-area East, the susceptibility is slightly higher as distance from these influences increases, although there are still influences from human artefacts on Scapa Flow and Flotta, especially apparent from the more elevated and exposed parts.

The presence of these modern human artefacts as well as routes and contemporary land-uses in the baseline reduces the susceptibility of the perceived wildness qualities of Sub-area East to medium in the southern part and medium to high in the central and northern parts, with the Moi Fea to Sky Fea ridgeline forming the definition between the southern and central parts.

The sensitivity to change is assessed as **medium to high** for Sub-area East of Hoy WLA (41), when combining the medium or medium to high susceptibility to change in this area, with the medium to high value of Hoy WLA (41).

Sub-area West

In relation to Sub-area West, all of the wildness qualities are expressed to a greater degree than in Sub-area East, especially along the more remote western coastal edge and in the enclosed valleys that pass from the ridgeline down to the coast, where the enclosure of surrounding hills gives rise to a reduced influence from external human artefacts and contemporary land uses. With the majority of the human influences situated on or off the eastern coastal edge, the intervening moorland hills, which occupy the core of the island, serve to screen most of these influences from the western half of the WLA. Furthermore, access to this area is generally very limited. There is, therefore, a higher perceived sense of remoteness, solitude and naturalness, and this increase the susceptibility of Sub-area West to the change that could arise as a result of the Proposed Development. The susceptibility of Sub-area West is therefore assessed as medium to high or high, with the medium to high area principally associated with the slopes to the north-west of the WLA where there are greater human influences associated with nearby Rackwick.

The sensitivity to change is assessed as **high** for the majority of Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41), and **medium to high** in the north-west corner. These ratings are assessed from combining the medium to high or high susceptibility to change in this area with the medium to high value of Hoy WLA (41).

Step 4: Assess the Effects on Wildness Qualities

Preliminary assessment of effects on Wild Land Qualities

The preliminary assessment in Table 6.3.3 identifies which of the perceptual responses, and, therefore, which WLQs, could potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. Those which are assessed as having the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development are then assessed further, in full, in the subsequent assessment in Table 6.3.4. The WLQs experienced from Hoy WLA (41) are derived from a combination of the physical attributes and perceptual responses, which are displayed to differing degrees within Sub-areas East and West.

Table 6.3.3: Preliminary assessment of effects on WLQs

Physical attributes and perceptual responses	Potential to be materially affected by the Proposed Development	Scoped in/out of detailed assessment
WLQ 1: A relatively small area of wild land that sits within a wider archipelago, with a prevailing strong influence of the sea and exposure.		

"Located within the archipelago of the Orkney Isles, Hoy forms just one part of a complex composition of islands, bays and sounds – the sea never being far away. The Hoy hills offer a spectacular elevated vantage point of this wide composition and even further away to Caithness. These views include distant human artefacts and contemporary land use outwith the WLA – both on land and sea."	Yes – the Proposed Development will be visible in views from the Hoy hills and will have an influence on the setting of the WLA.	Scoped in.
"There is a predominantly high degree of exposure across the area and the wider land and seascape, and high winds strongly influence natural processes such as soil and rock weathering, as well as the nature of waves along the coastline. These all contribute to a strong sense of naturalness throughout the WLA, whilst expansive views under 'wide skies' appear awe inspiring in their horizontal extent and revelation of changing weather."	No – the Proposed Development will not affect the degree of exposure or other weather conditions, nor the expansiveness of the views.	Scoped out.
WLQ2: The east and west sides of the area contrast strongly in landform, access and remoteness, with a hidden interior in-between that has a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary.		
"This WLA contrasts strongly between its west and east edges and the interior. The west side is marked by high cliffs towering above the Atlantic, whose precipitous rock faces are awe-inspiring; whilst, in contrast, the eastern hill slopes merge more gradually into coastal settlement, infrastructure and crofting outside the WLA. In between is a central range of rounded open hills that can rarely be seen from outside the area due to screening by intervening slopes, and thus possesses strong qualities of remoteness and sanctuary."	Yes – the Proposed Development will increase the influence of human artefacts across primarily the east side of the WLA and into parts of its core.	Scoped in.
"From within the WLA, the contrasting edges are difficult to see as they 'drop away' from the elevated tops of the interior; however, they can be viewed in part from some of the central hill tops. From these locations, the isolation of the WLA and the wider island is clearer to appreciate, resulting in an increased sense of remoteness."	Yes – the Proposed Development will be located on the edge of the WLA and with an influence on views from central hill tops.	Scoped in.
WLQ 3: Dramatic, towering sea cliffs in the west that lead to perceived awe and naturalness.		
"The western cliffs of Hoy tower above the sea below – their vertical element emphasised in contrast to the horizontal expanse of the adjacent sea and peatland either side. Their rugged and precipitous nature is awe-inspiring, as well as being of high risk to visitors, whilst the presence of stacks, pinnacles, waterfalls, scree slopes and beaches indicate their very dynamic nature. This, in combination with the changing state of the sea, a high numbers of sea birds, and exposure to strong south westerly winds, conveys a strong sense of naturalness."	No – the Proposed Development will have little effect on the western cliffs of Hoy due to no or very limited visibility as shown on Figure 6.8b and Figure 6.10.	Scoped out.
"The cliffs are difficult to see from the WLA interior due to landform screening. This means they are often encountered in surprise, maximising the arresting nature of their experience. The coastline is, however, slightly scalloped in line, including a number of geos and bays, which allows views along the cliffs from the promontories. The cliffs are at their highest within the northern part of the WLA, gradually descending towards the south."	No – the Proposed Development will have little effect on the western cliffs of Hoy due to no or very limited visibility as shown on Figure 6.8b and Figure 6.10.	Scoped out.
WLQ4: Subtle, gently-sloped hill slopes at a broad scale, containing a complex distribution of bog, pools, peat hags and burns at a local level, contributing to the sense of naturalness.		

"The interior hills of Hoy are large and rolling in nature, with gentle slopes, a prevailing sense of openness, and simple ground cover. The simplicity of this composition appears awe-inspiring, with smooth 'clean' landform horizons appearing in stark contrast to the vertical west, north and eastern edges."	Yes – the Proposed Development will introduce large vertical structures which will alter the sense of simplicity.	Scoped in.
"The hills are mainly vegetated, with a simple covering of bog and heath vegetation which, in combination with the gentle slopes, allows fairly open access. There are, however, local areas of rugged ground, pools, hags and burns that are more physically challenging to cross or negotiate. In addition, there are a number of narrow glens that cut grooves within the hill landform and contain features such as waterfalls and landslips which amplify the sense of naturalness."	No – although the Proposed Development does cross over the south-eastern boundary, its effect on the natural vegetation of the WLA will be especially localised and very limited.	Scoped out.
"The interior hills appear subtle in shape, with views of interlocking landform ridges and glens seen receding into the distance. This subtlety of form, in combination with the simplicity of ground cover and lack of landmarks, means it tends to be difficult to perceive scale, orientate and navigate within the landscape, resulting in a sense of risk. These attributes also mean that the WLA may seem much more extensive than it actually is, especially because, from the interior, it seems to extend out to sea beyond the furthest visible hill horizon."	Yes – the Proposed Development will introduce landmark features on the south-eastern boundary of the WLA which may dispel the perception of the WLA appearing larger than it actually is.	Scoped in.
"The interior hills are mainly hidden from outside the WLA - primarily because of the screening effect of the steep outer facing slopes and cliffs. In reverse, this also means that the area immediately surrounding the WLA tends to be hidden from the interior hills, apart from when seen from the outside hill edge. This means that human elements located immediately outside the WLA are largely screened from the hill interior and this consequently possesses a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary. In contrast, human elements located further away from the WLA, for example boats, ferries and fish-farms upon the sea, can be more prominent."	Yes – the Proposed Development will be visible on the edge of the WLA from parts of the WLA interior.	Scoped in.
WLQ 5: A distinctive high, simple and remote hill backdrop within the Orkney archipelago.		
"Due to the convex slopes and gently interlocking layout of the Hoy hills, their distinctive landform tends to be most clear when seen from a distance. From here, their vertical scale, steep sides and sweeping skyline seems awe-inspiring, heightened by the contrast to the surrounding horizontal emphasis of the sea and other islands. This contrast also tends to be increased by the difference in ground cover – the slope vegetation or cliffs typically much darker than brighter green grasses upon lower lying ground."	Paragraph 21 of SNH's 2017 Draft Guidance states; *"A wild land assessment should only consider effects on the qualities of the WLA as they are experienced from it, not from outwith it. This is in contrast to a scenic or landscape designation, whose appreciation from outwith is part of the standard LVIA approach".* WLQ5 cannot, therefore, be a matter for consideration in this assessment, as the experience of the hill backdrop can only occur from outwith the boundary where there can be no effects on the WLA. The effect on the scenic backdrop is a matter considered in respect of the	Scoped out.
"In some locations, the arresting qualities of this backdrop are diminished by views of features upon the outer slopes such as electricity poles which stand out in their vertical line and regular, repetitive spacing."		Scoped out.

	NSA as presented in Appendix 6.2.	
WLQ6: Few visitors and artefacts within the interior, despite the proximity of settlements and roads outside the area.		
"There is little evidence of people within the WLA and it contains no paths. Access across the area thus requires walking off-path, increasing the physical challenge and sense of risk. It tends to be most difficult where burns need to be crossed and around the west, north and eastern edges, where slopes are steep and high cliffs prohibit boat access. Within the elevated interior, slopes are gentler, although crossing blanket bog remains challenging."	Yes – the Proposed Development will increase access within the south-east corner of the WLA, albeit where access already exists.	Scoped in.
"Within most of the interior, there are no human artefacts or evidence of contemporary land use, including fences. This, in combination with the 'emptiness' of the peatland and physically challenging access, contributes to a strong sense of remoteness, solitude and sanctuary - particularly high where surrounding slopes also contribute to a sense of seclusion. The only exception to these conditions occurs within the southern third of the WLA. Here, even though there is a strong sense of solitude because of few visitors, the sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary is diminished by the cumulative effects of sheep grazing and views out to the east and south to elements outside the WLA. These include the prominent mast, service buildings and powerlines on Binga Fea (including lights at night), the wind turbine near Lyness and the Heldale water treatment buildings and track, as well as more distant elements, including boats, fish farms and the wind turbine and industrial development on Flotta."	Yes – the Proposed Development will increase the presence and influence of human artefacts around the south-east boundary of the WLA.	Scoped in.

In summary, the Proposed Development will have potential to affect some aspects of the physical attributes and perceptual responses relating to all the WLQs with the exception of WLQ 3 and WLQ 5 which have been scoped out of further assessment. The Proposed Development will have no effect on the dramatic coastal scenery found along the west coast of Hoy (WLQ 3) and as effects cannot be experienced outwith the WLA boundary, there can be no effect on experiencing the hill backdrop in more distant views (WLQ 5).

The remaining WLQs are experienced to varying degrees across the WLA, but it is clear that many of the perceptual responses of sanctuary, solitude, perceived naturalness and remoteness are most strongly expressed within the parts of Hoy WLA (41) that lie within Sub-area West, consisting the western coastal edge and the enclosed western valleys, and to a lesser extent in Sub-area East.

Detailed assessment of Effects on Wildness Qualities

A detailed assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the perceptual responses of wildness qualities WLQ1, WLQ2, WLQ4 and WLQ6, which were scoped into the detailed assessment (Table 6.3.3) is set out in Table 6.3.4 for Sub-area East and Table 6.3.5 for Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41). As there is no potential for the Proposed Development to affect WLQ3 or WLQ5, there is no further assessment of these WLQs included in the assessment. The assessment in Tables 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 presents the magnitude of change that may arise, along with the resulting significance of effect on each Sub-area.

The three representative viewpoints presented in the LVIA and further four illustrative viewpoints included as wirelines, are particularly relevant to informing the likely magnitude of change arising

from the Proposed Development on the perception of wildness qualities across both Sub-areas of Hoy (41).

The photomontage and wireline visualisations for the following viewpoints, in addition to field survey assessment, has informed the following assessment of effects on the wildness qualities of Hoy WLA (41) in Tables 6.3.4 and 6.3.5.

- Viewpoint 1: Knap of Trowieglen (Figure 6.15: photomontage);
- Viewpoint 13: Bakingstone Hill (Figure 6.27: photomontage);
- Viewpoint 16: Withi Gill (Figure 6.307: wireline);
- Viewpoint 17: North Dale (Figure 6.31: wireline);
- Viewpoint 18: West Dale (Figure 6.32: wireline);
- Viewpoint 19: Genie Fea (Figure 6.33: wireline); and
- Viewpoint 20: Whitefowl Hill (Figure 6.34: wireline).

Table 6.3.4: Assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs of Sub-area East of Hoy WLA (41)

Physical attributes and perceptual responses	Magnitude of change to baseline wildness quality	Significance of effect on wildness quality
WLQ 1: A relatively small area of wild land that sits within a wider archipelago, with a prevailing strong influence of the sea and exposure.		
"Located within the archipelago of the Orkney Isles, Hoy forms just one part of a complex composition of islands, bays and sounds – the sea never being far away. The Hoy hills offer a spectacular elevated vantage point of this wide composition and even further away to Caithness. These views include distant human artefacts and contemporary land use outwith the WLA – both on land and sea."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** in the southern and central parts and **medium** in the northern part. While views from the Hoy hills presently include human artefacts and contemporary land uses outwith the WLA particularly from within the southern and eastern sectors, the Proposed Development will introduce a closer range and larger scale group of human artefacts, set mostly outwith the south-eastern boundary, albeit with one turbine within. These turbines will have a notable influence in views from the southern part of Sub-area East, which will extend into the central part, and then weaken towards the north of the WLA as the proposed turbines appear gradually smaller in scale and wider influences have more of a bearing.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** in those parts of Sub-area East where notable visibility would occur and **not significant** where no or limited visibility would occur.
WLQ2: The east and west sides of the area contrast strongly in landform, access and remoteness, with a hidden interior in-between that has a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary.		
"This WLA contrasts strongly between its west and east edges and the interior. The west side is marked by high cliffs towering above the Atlantic, whose precipitous rock faces are awe-inspiring; whilst, in contrast, the eastern hill slopes merge more gradually into coastal settlement, infrastructure and crofting outside the WLA. In between is a central range of rounded open hills that	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** in the southern and central parts, and **medium** in the northern part. While there is already an influence from modern artefacts and land-uses along the eastern and southern edges of the WLA, the Proposed Development will introduce closer range and larger scale modern artefacts which will moderate the perceptual responses of remoteness and sanctuary found in parts of the WLA. The magnitude of change will be most notable in the southern part of Sub-Area East, where the Proposed Development will be located, with this effect extending into the central part and then	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** in those parts of Sub-area East where notable visibility would occur and **not significant** where no or limited visibility would occur.

can rarely be seen from outside the area due to screening by intervening slopes, and thus possesses strong qualities of remoteness and sanctuary."	reducing towards the northern part as the increasing separation distance will reduce the perceived vertical and horizontal extents of the Proposed Development.	
"From within the WLA, the contrasting edges are difficult to see as they 'drop away' from the elevated tops of the interior; however, they can be viewed in part from some of the central hill tops. From these locations, the isolation of the WLA and the wider island is clearer to appreciate, resulting in an increased sense of remoteness."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium** in the southern part and central part and **medium to low** or **no change** in the northern part**.** The ZTV in Figure 6.8b shows visibility occurring across the central hill tops which sit along the join with Sub-area West, namely Bakingstone Hill (152 m), Sky Fea (244 m), Withi Gill (359 m) and Knap of Trowieglen (399 m). While the effect on the hill tops in the southern part of Sub-area East is moderated by existing human artefacts and land-uses, the proposed turbines will, nonetheless, further reduce the sense of remoteness. This medium magnitude of change will extend into the central area where visibility will be less extensive, albeit experienced from a context in which human influences are notably less evident. In the northern section the magnitude of change will drop to medium to low as visibility will be less distant and less extensive from the elevated tops of the interior hills.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** in those parts of Sub-area East where notable visibility would occur and **not significant** where no or limited visibility would occur.
WLQ4: Subtle, gently-sloped hill slopes at a broad scale, containing a complex distribution of bog, pools, peat hags and burns at a local level, contributing to the sense of naturalness.		
"The interior hills of Hoy are large and rolling in nature, with gentle slopes, a prevailing sense of openness, and simple ground cover. The simplicity of this composition appears awe-inspiring, with smooth 'clean' landform horizons appearing in stark contrast to the vertical west, north and eastern edges."	The magnitude of change on this WLQ will be **medium to high** in the southern and central parts, and **medium** in the northern section. The Proposed Development will introduce large scale vertical structures that will interrupt the 'smooth clean landform horizons' most notably in the closer range southern section, where they will appear on the southern edge of the low moorland hills. From the central section, there will be a greater level of screening from the intervening hills and the proposed turbines will occupy a smaller proportion of the horizon, where visible. This reduction in the magnitude of effect will continue further north, from where the effect will be less notable.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** in those parts of Sub-area East where notable visibility would occur and **not significant** where no or limited visibility would occur.
"The interior hills appear subtle in shape, with views of interlocking landform ridges and glens seen receding into the distance. This subtlety of form, in combination with the simplicity of ground cover and lack of landmarks, means it tends to be difficult to perceive scale, orientate and navigate within the landscape, resulting in a sense of risk. These attributes also mean that the WLA may seem much more extensive than it actually is, especially because, from the interior, it seems to extend out to sea beyond the furthest visible hill horizon."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium** in the southern part, **medium to high** in the central part and **medium to low** in the northern part. From the southern part of Sub-area East, there is already an apparent influence from landmark features such as the Binga Fea mast and the Ore Brae turbine, and although notably smaller than the proposed turbines, they will, nonetheless, moderate the effect on the simplicity in character and perceived extents of the WLA. From the central section, where existing human influences have a lesser influence, the proposed turbines will reduce the perceived extents of the WLA and appear at variance with the simplicity, such that the magnitude of change will be medium to high. With a greater separation and human influences evident across Scapa Flow, the northern section will experience a lower again magnitude of change on this WLQ.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** in all parts of Sub-area East where notable visibility would occur and **not significant** where no or limited visibility would occur.

"The interior hills are mainly hidden from outside the WLA - primarily because of the screening effect of the steep outer facing slopes and cliffs. In reverse, this also means that the area immediately surrounding the WLA tends to be hidden from the interior hills, apart from when seen from the outside hill edge. This means that human elements located immediately outside the WLA are largely screened from the hill interior and this consequently possesses a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary. In contrast, human elements located further away from the WLA, for example boats, ferries and fish-farms upon the sea, can be more prominent."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium** in the southern part, **medium to high** in the central part and **medium to low** in the northern part. The Proposed Development will be located on the south-eastern boundary of the WLA, such that it will be visible from parts of the interior hills. In the southern part, this effect is moderated by the existing influence of other human artefacts and land-uses that are evident, although the larger scale and close range of the proposed turbines, will reduce the sense of remoteness and sanctuary further. While the extent of visibility will be reduced owing to the greater separation distance, the magnitude of change will increase to medium to high as the proposed turbines will appear at greater variance from this context in which there are fewer human influences evident. From the northern section, the combination of the greater distance and the evidence of human influences from Scapa Flow will reduce the magnitude of change to medium to low.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** in those parts of Sub-area East where notable visibility would occur and **not significant** where no or limited visibility would occur.
WLQ6: Few visitors and artefacts within the interior, despite the proximity of settlements and roads outside the area.		
"There is little evidence of people within the WLA and it contains no paths. Access across the area thus requires walking off-path, increasing the physical challenge and sense of risk. It tends to be most difficult where burns need to be crossed and around the west, north and eastern edges, where slopes are steep and high cliffs prohibit boat access. Within the elevated interior, slopes are gentler, although crossing blanket bog remains challenging."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will have a localised **medium** effect where the Proposed Development will be located and **no change** across the remainder of Sub-area East. There is already access into the south-east corner of the WLA in the form of a rough track built to access the former Naval Headquarters and extending across the hill slopes for a further 1 km to the south-west, with other tracks running parallel to the north. People are encouraged to access this local area to visit the OS mapped viewpoint and picnic site. The Proposed Development will upgrade the main existing track into the Site and create a new looped track around Wee Fea to access the turbines.	The effect on this aspect of the WLQ will be **not significant**. Despite the localised effect in the south-east corner, this area is already affected by the presence of tracks and the much wider remainder of the WLA will remain unaffected.
"Within most of the interior, there are no human artefacts or evidence of contemporary land use, including fences. This, in combination with the 'emptiness' of the peatland and physically challenging access, contributes to a strong sense of remoteness, solitude and sanctuary - particularly high where surrounding slopes also contribute to a sense of seclusion. The only exception to these conditions occurs within the southern third of the WLA. Here, even though there is a strong sense of solitude because of few visitors, the sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary is diminished by the cumulative effects of sheep grazing and views out to the east and south to elements outside the WLA. These include the prominent mast, service buildings and powerlines on Binga	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium** in the southern and central parts and **medium to low** in the northern section. While the diminished sense of remoteness, sanctuary and naturalness in the south-east corner is recognised in SNH's citation, the scale of the Proposed Development and its location partly within the WLA boundary means that it will add a notable addition to the existing human influences and further detract from these perceptual responses. This effect will, however, be moderated by the modern artefacts close to the south-east boundary, as listed out in the citation.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** in those parts of Sub-area East where notable visibility would occur and **not significant** where no or limited visibility would occur.

Fea (including lights at night), the wind turbine near Lyness and the Heldale water treatment buildings and track, as well as more distant elements, including boats, fish farms and the wind turbine and industrial development on Flotta."		

Table 6.3.5: Assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs of Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41)

Physical attributes and perceptual responses	Magnitude of change to baseline wildness quality	Significance of effect on wildness quality
WLQ 1: A relatively small area of wild land that sits within a wider archipelago, with a prevailing strong influence of the sea and exposure.		
"Located within the archipelago of the Orkney Isles, Hoy forms just one part of a complex composition of islands, bays and sounds – the sea never being far away. The Hoy hills offer a spectacular elevated vantage point of this wide composition and even further away to Caithness. These views include distant human artefacts and contemporary land use outwith the WLA – both on land and sea."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** within the localised areas to the west of Bakingstone Hill (152 m) and around Genie Fea (236 m), medium to the west of Withi Gill (359 m), and **low** or **no change** in all remaining areas. The ZTV in Figures 6.8b and 6.10 shows that there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development across the majority of Sub-area West. There are, however, some small patches of visibility shown across a few of the high points on the ridgelines that extend westwards, most notably Bakingstone Hill and Genie Fea (236 m) in the southern part, Withi Gill in the central part and Whitefowl Hill (277 m) in the northern part. The wireline from Genie Fea (Figure 6.33) shows visibility comprising all six turbines seen partly screened by the intervening landform. While West Hill and Ore Brae single turbines are already visible in this view, the Proposed Development will introduce a closer range and larger scale group of human artefacts, which will have a notable influence from this localised area and give rise to a medium to high magnitude of change. In wider views, this area connects more closely with views westwards towards the Atlantic Ocean and this will moderate the overall effect. The wireline from Whitefowl Hill (Figure 6.34) shows visibility comprising only a small number of tips from a greater distance and will give to only a low magnitude of change.	The effect on this WLQ will be **not significant** across the majority of Sub-area West with the exception of localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill where the effect will be **significant**.
WLQ2: The east and west sides of the area contrast strongly in landform, access and remoteness, with a hidden interior in-between that has a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary.		
"This WLA contrasts strongly between its west and east edges and the interior. The west side is marked by high cliffs towering above the Atlantic, whose precipitous rock faces are awe-inspiring; whilst, in contrast, the eastern hill slopes merge more gradually into coastal settlement, infrastructure and crofting outside the WLA. In between is a central range of rounded open hills that can	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** within the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill and around Genie Fea (236 m), **medium** west of Withi Gill, and **low** or **no change** in all remaining areas. The ZTV in Figures 6.8b and 6.10 show that there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development across the majority of Sub-area West. There are, however, some small patches of visibility shown across a few hills, most notably west of Bakingstone Hill and Genie Fea in the southern part, west of Withi Gill in the central part and Whitefowl Hill	The effect on this WLQ will be **not significant** across the majority of Sub-area West with the exception of localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill

rarely be seen from outside the area due to screening by intervening slopes, and thus possesses strong qualities of remoteness and sanctuary."	in the northern part. The sense of remoteness and sanctuary experienced across the majority of Sub-area West will remain unaffected, while there will be a localised effect west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea, and west of Withi Gill, where visibility of the Proposed Development will moderate these perceptual responses, despite the smaller scale single turbines and other modern artefacts being visible from these locations.	where the effect will be **significant**.
"From within the WLA, the contrasting edges are difficult to see as they 'drop away' from the elevated tops of the interior; however, they can be viewed in part from some of the central hill tops. From these locations, the isolation of the WLA and the wider island is clearer to appreciate, resulting in an increased sense of remoteness."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** within the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill and around Genie Fea, **medium** west of Withi Gill, and **low** or **no change** in all remaining areas. The ZTV in Figures 6.8b and 6.10 show that there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development across the majority of Sub-area West. There are, however, some small patches of visibility shown across a few hills, most notably west of Bakingstone Hill and around Genie Fea in the southern part, west of Withi Gill in the central part, and Whitefowl Hill in the northern part. The introduction of the large and dynamic turbines on the south-eastern boundary of the WLA will mark the edge of the WLA and reduce the sense of isolation experienced from the area west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill. No or low levels of visibility across the remainder of Sub-area West will limit the effect on the sense of remoteness and isolation.	The effect on this WLQ will be **not significant** across the majority of Sub-area West with the exception of localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill where the effect will be **significant**.
WLQ4: Subtle, gently-sloped hill slopes at a broad scale, containing a complex distribution of bog, pools, peat hags and burns at a local level, contributing to the sense of naturalness.		
"The interior hills of Hoy are large and rolling in nature, with gentle slopes, a prevailing sense of openness, and simple ground cover. The simplicity of this composition appears awe-inspiring, with smooth 'clean' landform horizons appearing in stark contrast to the vertical west, north and eastern edges."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** within the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill and around Genie Fea, medium west of Withi Gill, and **low** or **no change** in all remaining areas. The ZTV in Figures 6.8b and 6.10 show that there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development across the majority of Sub-area West. There are, however, some small patches of visibility shown across a few hills, most notably west of Bakingstone Hill and Genie Fea in the southern part, west of Withi Gill in the central part and Whitefowl Hill in the northern part. The introduction of the large and dynamic turbines on the south-eastern boundary of the WLA will interrupt the smooth, clean horizon, in views from the areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill, albeit with the smaller turbines of West Hill and Ore Brae already partly visible in this sector. No or low levels of visibility across the remainder of Sub-area West will limit the effect on the open horizons.	The effect on this WLQ will be **not significant** across the majority of Sub-area West with the exception of localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill where the effect will be **significant**.
"The interior hills appear subtle in shape, with views of interlocking landform ridges and glens seen receding into the distance. This subtlety of form, in combination with the simplicity of ground cover and lack of landmarks, means it tends to be difficult to perceive scale,	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** within the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill and around Genie Fea, **medium** west of Withi Gill and **low** or **no change** in all remaining areas. The ZTV in Figure 6.8b shows that there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development across the majority of Sub-area West. There are, however, some small patches of visibility shown across	The effect on this WLQ will be **not significant** across the majority of Sub-area West with the exception of localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill,

orientate and navigate within the landscape, resulting in a sense of risk. These attributes also mean that the WLA may seem much more extensive than it actually is, especially because, from the interior, it seems to extend out to sea beyond the furthest visible hill horizon."	a few hills, most notably west of Bakingstone Hill and Genie Fea in the southern part, west of Withi Gill in the central part and Whitefowl Hill in the northern part. The introduction of the large and dynamic turbines on the south-eastern boundary of the WLA will introduce distinct landmark features that will detract from the simplicity of the landscape and reduce the perceived extents of the WLA as experienced from these localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill, and despite the smaller turbines of West Hill and Ore Brae already partly visible in this sector. No or low levels of visibility across the remainder of Sub-area West will limit the effect on the open horizons.	around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill where the effect will be **significant**.
"The interior hills are mainly hidden from outside the WLA - primarily because of the screening effect of the steep outer facing slopes and cliffs. In reverse, this also means that the area immediately surrounding the WLA tends to be hidden from the interior hills, apart from when seen from the outside hill edge. This means that human elements located immediately outside the WLA are largely screened from the hill interior and this consequently possesses a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary. In contrast, human elements located further away from the WLA, for example boats, ferries and fish-farms upon the sea, can be more prominent."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium to high** within the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill and around Genie Fea, **medium** west of Withi Gill, and **low** or **no change** in all remaining areas. The ZTV in Figures 6.8b and 6.10 show that there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development across the majority of Sub-area West. There are, however, some small patches of visibility shown across a few hills, most notably west of Bakingstone Hill and Genie Fea in the southern part, west of Withi Gill in the central part and Whitefowl Hill in the northern part. The introduction of the large and dynamic turbines on the south-eastern boundary of the WLA will introduce distinct landmark features that will moderate the sense of remoteness and sanctuary experienced from the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill, despite the smaller turbines of West Hill and Ore Brae already partly visible in this sector. No, or low levels of visibility across the remainder of Sub-area West will limit the effect on these perceptual responses.	The effect on this WLQ will be **not significant** across the majority of Sub-area West with the exception of localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill where the effect will be **significant**.
WLQ6: Few visitors and artefacts within the interior, despite the proximity of settlements and roads outside the area.		
"There is little evidence of people within the WLA and it contains no paths. Access across the area thus requires walking off-path, increasing the physical challenge and sense of risk. It tends to be most difficult where burns need to be crossed and around the west, north and eastern edges, where slopes are steep and high cliffs prohibit boat access. Within the elevated interior, slopes are gentler, although crossing blanket bog remains challenging."	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **no change**. While the Proposed Development will upgrade and extend tracks into the southern part of Sub-area East, there will be no change to the limited access into Sub-area West.	There will be no effect.
"Within most of the interior, there are no human artefacts or evidence of contemporary land use, including fences. This, in combination with the 'emptiness' of the peatland and physically challenging access, contributes to a strong sense of remoteness, solitude and sanctuary -	The magnitude of change on this aspect of the WLQ will be **medium** within the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and West of Withi Gill and **low** or **no change** in all remaining areas. While the diminished sense of remoteness, sanctuary and naturalness in the south-east corner is recognised in SNH's citation, the scale and dynamic nature of the Proposed Development means that it will add a	The effect on this WLQ will be **not significant** across the majority of Sub-area West with the exception of localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill,

particularly high where surrounding slopes also contribute to a sense of seclusion. The only exception to these conditions occurs within the southern third of the WLA. Here, even though there is a strong sense of solitude because of few visitors, the sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary is diminished by the cumulative effects of sheep grazing and views out to the east and south to elements outside the WLA. These include the prominent mast, service buildings and powerlines on Binga Fea (including lights at night), the wind turbine near Lyness and the Heldale water treatment buildings and track, as well as more distant elements, including boats, fish farms and the wind turbine and industrial development on Flotta."	notable addition to the existing human influences and further detract from the perceptual responses of remoteness, solitude and sanctuary as experienced in the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill. This effect will, however, be moderated by the presence of West Hill and Ore Brae turbines, partly visible in this sector. No, or low levels of visibility across the remainder of Sub-area West will limit the effect on these perceptual responses.	around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill where the effect will be **significant**.

Step 5: Judgement on the Significance of Effect

The effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed against the four relevant WLQs presented in SNHs citation of Hoy WLA (41). Table 6.3.6, below, summarises the findings of this assessment.

Table 6.3.6: Summary of assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs of Sub-area East and West of Hoy WLA (41)

WLQ 1: A relatively small area of wild land that sits within a wider archipelago, with a prevailing strong influence of the sea and exposure. The aspect of this WLQ with potential to be affected by the Proposed Development is the views of the sea experienced from the interior hills.		
Summary of effect on Sub-area East	**Summary of effect on Sub-area West**	**Overall judgement**
The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on Sub-area East in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the presence of the proposed turbines, appearing as large and dynamic structures in views from the interior hills out to the surrounding sea. This effect will be moderated by existing human influences, especially adjacent to the southern section of this Sub-area.	The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill in Sub-area West, in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the presence of the proposed turbines, appearing as large and dynamic structures in views from the interior hills out to the surrounding sea, although there is a stronger connection between this area and the Atlantic Coast to the west, which will not be affected by the Proposed Development.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** across Sub-area East and localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill and **not significant** across the remainder of Sub-area West.
WLQ2: The east and west sides of the area contrast strongly in landform, access and remoteness, with a hidden interior in-between that has a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary. The aspect of this WLQ with potential to be affected by the Proposed Development is the sense of remoteness and sanctuary experienced in the interior hills.		
Summary of effect on Sub-area East	**Summary of effect on Sub-area West**	**Overall judgement**

The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on Sub-area East in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the introduction of the proposed turbines which will have a notable influence especially in those parts where existing human influences are screened by the intervening landform and will moderate the perceptual responses of a sense of remoteness and sanctuary.	The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill in Sub-area West in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the introduction of large scale and dynamic artefacts on the edge of the WLA and in light of the limited human influences, although the West Hill and Ore Brae turbines will be partly visible.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** across Sub-area East and localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill and **not significant** across the remainder of Sub-area West.
WLQ4: Subtle, gently-sloped hill slopes at a broad scale, containing a complex distribution of bog, pools, peat hags and burns at a local level, contributing to the sense of naturalness. The aspect of this WLQ with potential to be affected by the Proposed Development is the sense of naturalness derived from the open and simple landscape and clean horizons.		
Summary of effect on Sub-area East	**Summary of effect on Sub-area West**	**Overall judgement**
The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on Sub-area East in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the introduction of the proposed turbines which will be visible as landmark features and evident on the clean horizons and which will moderate the perceptual response of a sense of naturalness.	The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill in Sub-area West, in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the introduction of the proposed turbines on the edge of the WLA and in light of the limited human influences, although the West Hill and Ore Brae turbines will be partly visible.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** across Sub-area East and localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill and **not significant** across the remainder of Sub-area West
WLQ6: Few visitors and artefacts within the interior, despite the proximity of settlements and roads outside the area. The aspect of this WLQ with potential to be affected by the Proposed Development is the relative absence of human artefacts within the interior of the WLA.		
Summary of effect on Sub-area East	**Summary of effect on Sub-area West**	**Overall judgement**
The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on Sub-area East in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the larger scale and closer proximity of the proposed turbines compared to existing human artefacts.	The Proposed Development will have a significant effect on the localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill in Sub-area West, in respect of this aspect of the WLQ. This assessment relates to the larger scale and closer proximity of the proposed turbines compared to existing human artefacts.	The effect on this WLQ will be **significant** across Sub-area East and localised areas west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill and **not significant** across the remainder of Sub-area West

At 50 km^2 Hoy WLA (41) is one of the smallest WLAs. While the western extent of the WLA is defined by the natural coastline, the northern, eastern and southern extents are defined by the proximity of human artefacts and land uses, the influences of which permeate into parts of this small WLA. SNH's mapping, presented in Figures 6.11a to 6.11e, show that WLQs generally, do not achieve the highest levels and are weakest in the south-eastern corner, where the Proposed Development will be located. They also show that the western coast, western valleys and moorland hills from the interior towards the west present the WLQs strongest, with the exception of the north-western part of the

WLA where influences from contemporary land uses. The ZTV in Figure 6.8b shows that these western areas are least affected by the Proposed Development.

The location of the Proposed Development on the south-eastern boundary of Hoy WLA (41) means that it will give rise to effects on the physical attributes, as well as the perceptual responses experienced from within the WLA. While the majority of the Proposed Development will be located outwith the WLA, one of the turbines, the met mast and the associated track, will be located within the south-east boundary. This part of Hoy WLA (41) is the least susceptible to the effects of the Proposed Development owing to the relatively lower ratings in respect of the wildness qualities, as compiled and mapped by SNH (Figures 6.11a to 6.11e). There are existing tracks extending across the hill slopes of Wee Fea and the remnants of the large Former Naval Headquarters building also close to the WLA boundary.

The assessment has found that four of the six WLQs have potential to be affected by the Proposed Development. There is a large degree of overlap between these WLQs, in that they all focus on the absence of human artefacts in the interior and the sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary that arises as a result, but also the relationship between the interior and the edge of the WLA where it is recognised that human influences exist, albeit not always visible. The introduction of the Proposed Development on the south-eastern edge of the Hoy WLA (41) has the potential to affect the perceptual responses experienced from the interior.

In order to assist the assessment, Hoy WLA (41) has been subdivided into Sub-area East and Sub-area West. This reflects the difference in baseline character, whereby, in parts of Sub-area East, human influences occur, while in Sub-area West, very few human influences occur.

The assessment has found that the effects of the Proposed Development on four of the WLQs experienced in Sub-area East will be significant. There are a range of human influences currently concentrated around the south-east corner of the WLA, which reduce the intensity of the perceptual responses relating to the WLQs. Despite these existing influences, the closer range and larger scale of the Proposed Development, will mean that there will, not only be a more notable impact in this south-eastern corner, but that the influence will also permeate further across the eastern half of the Hoy WLA (41). While only one of the turbines will be located within the WLA, the close proximity of the other five will increase the influence of these large scale and dynamic human artefacts. The ZTV in Figure 6.8b shows that visibility will be relatively extensive across Sub-area East.

Sub-area West of Hoy WLA (41) is highly susceptible to a development of this size and form, due to the high strength of wildness that results in the range of qualities described, being well expressed. While existing human influences outside Hoy WLA (41) do have some influence on Sub-area West, especially from elevated parts, these influences are typically weak. As a result, the wildness qualities of remoteness, sense of solitude and sanctuary are expressed strongly, and with minimal influence from human artefacts and contemporary land uses. The wildness qualities become progressively stronger away from the south-east and north-west corners and towards the west coast and central moorland hills.

The assessment has found that the effects of the Proposed Development on four of the WLQs experienced in Sub-area West will be not significant across the majority of this area, albeit with significant effects arising in three localised areas, namely west of Bakingstone Hill, around Genie Fea and west of Withi Gill. The ZTVs in Figures 6.8b and 6.10 shows that the majority of Sub-area West will experience no visibility of the Proposed Development and, therefore, there will be no change and no effect. Across the three localised areas described, there will be visibility, and the medium to

high or medium magnitude of change will give rise to significant effects. These effects will be moderated to some extent by the baseline influence of contemporary land uses and modern artefacts evident from parts of these areas.

Those areas, which will be influenced by the Proposed Development, are mostly not devoid of other visible human influences in the landscape, mostly to the south and east of Hoy WLA (41), including Binga Fea mast, Ore Brae turbine, Heldale Water treatment plant, settlement and derelict naval buildings at Lyness, agricultural land and the B9047 along the east coast and West Hill turbine and the oil terminal at Flotta. There are also rigs often out in Scapa Flow, as well as ferries, fishing boats, oil tankers and other vessels. These influences all moderate the effects of the Proposed Development on the Hoy WLA, especially in those transitional areas in the south-east where wildness qualities are not as strongly expressed as they are in the more remote interiors of the WLA, while in the more remote areas, levels of visibility are typically reduced by distance and intervening landform, with the exception of the three localised areas identified.

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