



Technical Assessment 1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Volume 3

Rivestone Turbine Repowering

28/11/2023



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The LVIA considers the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Development upon the landscape resources, views and visual amenity receptors within the existing landscape and visual baseline across a 5km study zone.

The Application Site is located in a rural setting on land approximately 1.8km south of Milltown of Rothiemay and approximately 6.3km north of Huntly. The existing wind energy development currently comprises a single turbine consisting of a hub height of 37m, rotor diameter of 33m and overall tip height of 53.5m. The Proposed Development will be located within pastureland and is bound by grazing agricultural fields. The wider context of the Application Site consists of agricultural land, woodland and treelines. The River Deveron also runs around the north western extents of the wider area.

Access to the Proposed Development is via an existing access track and is formed directly off a local unnamed road, which extends from the A97 in the south and joins the B9118 at Milltown of Rothiemay in the north.

Landscape Effects:

The Proposed Development is located within the Landscape Character Type 32 - Farmed and Wooded River Valleys. The main landscape effects of the Proposed Development will be associated with the introduction of a larger turbine to replace the existing two turbines found within the Application Site. Landscape effects would result due to the changes between the existing turbine and the Proposed replacement Turbine.

Indirect changes will occur outside of the Proposed Development boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within approximately 1.5km radius from the development boundary in views from the surrounding landscape.

Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development, the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in accessible views.

Visual Effects:

The highest visual effects will be experienced within an approximate 1.5km radius of the Proposed Development boundary, from locations with open or partial views of the Proposed Development. Visual changes will be greatest upon those receptors where the existing turbine is already prominent within their view, which includes several local rural residents, as well as recreational and road users. The

magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 1.5km are considered to range from **Medium to Low**.

In long distance views ranging between approximately 1.5km – 5km, particularly from the road network to the northwest, northeast, southwest and south, effects will vary from **Negligible to Low**. While the Proposed Development will contribute to an industrial feature to the view when seen, the change will be seen in the context of the wider landscape where sympathetic design will help integrate the Proposed Development into its setting.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) identifies and assesses the potential effects of the proposed turbine (the “Proposed Development”) on the landscape and visual resource of the study area within Aberdeenshire.

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.2. This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been prepared by Neo Environmental Limited, on behalf of Constantine Wind Energy (CWE) (“the Applicant”) in support of a planning application submitted to Aberdeenshire Council (“the Council”) for the removal of the existing wind turbine and the erection of a single replacement wind turbine (up to a maximum of 77m to blade tip height) (“the Proposed Development”) and revised hardstanding arrangements on land at Rivestone, Huntly, Aberdeenshire (“the Application Site”).
- 1.3. The Applicant proposes to use a EWT DW54 as a candidate turbine, with the potential to replace with a similar model, such as a Vestas V52, with a maximum tip height of 77m (Volume 2, Figure 4: Turbine Elevations).
- 1.4. The Application Site is located in a rural setting on land approximately 1.8km south of Milltown of Rothiemay and approximately 6.3km north of Huntly (**Volume 2, Figure 1: Location Plan**). The existing wind energy development currently comprises a single Enercon E33 located at E355348, N846386. The current turbine consists of a hub height of 37m, rotor diameter of 33m and overall tip height of 53.5m.
- 1.5. The Proposed Development will be located at approximate Grid Reference E355354 N846372 in a grass field measuring approximately 7.1 hectares, although only approximately 1.8 hectares is required to accommodate the wind turbine and associated infrastructure (**Volume 2, Figure 2: Site Plan**).
- 1.6. The Application Site covers gently undulating agricultural land with an elevation range of approximately 146 – 159m AOD. The wider context of the Application Site consists of agricultural land, woodland and treelines. The River Deveron also runs around the north western extents of the wider area.
- 1.7. Access to the Proposed Development is via an existing access track, consented under application APP/2012/2844 and is formed directly off a local unnamed road, which extends from the A97 in the south and joins the B9118 at Milltown of Rothiemay in the north.

REPORT STRUCTURE

1.8. This report considers how:

- Landscape effects associated with a development relate to changes to the fabric, character and quality of the townscape resource and how it is experienced; and
- Visual effects relate closely to landscape effects, but also concern changes in views as visual assessment is also concerned with people's perception and response to changes in visual amenity.

1.9. Landscape and visual effects are interrelated with other environmental effects but are assessed separately. Whilst elements of cultural heritage such as heritage landscapes are important elements of the landscape and contribute to its character and influence its quality and value, effects on the significance of these designated features and their setting do not form part of this assessment. The following figures are appended to this LVIA (**Appendix 1A**), and aim to complement the content of this report:

- Figure 1.1 – Landscape Character Types
- Figure 1.2 – Landscape Designations
- Figure 1.3a – Tip Height ZTV 20km Study Area
- Figure 1.3b – Comparative ZTV with VPs
- Figure 1.4 – Tip Height ZTV 5km Study with VPs
- Figure 1.5a – Viewpoint 1
- Figure 1.5b – Viewpoint 1 PM
- Figure 1.6a – Viewpoint 2
- Figure 1.6b – Viewpoint 2 PM
- Figure 1.7a – Viewpoint 3
- Figure 1.7b – Viewpoint 3 PM
- Figure 1.8a – Viewpoint 4
- Figure 1.8b – Viewpoint 4 PM

- Figure 1.9a – Viewpoint 5
- Figure 1.9b – Viewpoint 5 PM
- Figure 1.10a – Viewpoint 6
- Figure 1.10b – Viewpoint 6 PM

2. METHODOLOGY

GUIDANCE

2.1. The following sources and guidelines were used in the assessment:

- ‘*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*’ (GLVIA), 3rd Edition (2013) Landscape Institute (UK) & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)¹
- ‘*Visual Representation of Development Proposals*’, Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (2019)²
- The fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) (2023)³
- Aberdeenshire Council Local Development Plan (2023)⁴
- Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire Final Report (2014)⁵
- Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot), Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance, Version 2.2, (2017)⁶

¹ <https://www.iema.net/download-document/236735>

² https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation.pdf

³ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/02/national-planning-framework-4/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4.pdf>

⁴ <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldpmedia/LDP2021/AberdeenshireLocalDevelopmentPlan2023IntroductionAndPolicies.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/11378/section1introductionaslassessmentmarch2014.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance>

- Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – Natural Heritage Considerations (2015)⁷

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

- 2.2. The type and duration of the landscape and visual effects fall within three main stages, those being the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.
- 2.3. The potential construction phase (temporary and of a short duration) effects include:
- Physical effects arising from construction of the Proposed Development on the landscape resource within the application site;
 - Effects to landscape character and visual amenity within the wider study area of 5km as a result of changes to elements present within the landscape and/ or visual amenity as a result of construction activities;
 - Effects of temporary site infrastructure such as site traffic and construction compounds;
 - Effects of partially built Proposed Development in various stages of construction; and
 - Cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with other permitted developments of a similar type and scale upon the landscape and visual resource of the study area.
- 2.4. The potential operational phase effects include:
- Effects of the Proposed Development on landscape resources and landscape character, including the perceptual qualities of the landscape;
 - Effects of the Proposed Development on views and visual amenity; and

⁷ <https://www.kintradwell-windfarm.co.uk/media/2641818/cd007011-spatial-planning-for-onshore-wind-turbines-natural-heritage-consideration-june-2015.pdf>

- Cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other permitted developments of a similar type and scale upon the landscape and visual resource of the study area.
- 2.5. Elements of the Proposed Development will become a long-term feature in the visual amenity of parts of the study area following the completion of construction works. The assessment takes account of this in the determination of residual visual effects.
- 2.6. Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 interactive map has been referenced to determine the landscape designations within the site these have been reviewed as part of this assessment. However, given the nature of the development, its location, scale and setting, it is considered that likely significant effects will occur within 5km of the application site.
- 2.7. The Proposed Development will be decommissioned when it reaches the end of its useful life. At that time, detailed decommissioning procedures will be produced in line with prevailing best practice to ensure that there will be no significant, negative environmental effects from the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. As a result, additional potential impacts and associated effects arising during the decommissioning phase are not anticipated above and beyond those already assessed during the construction phase.

Assessment Process

- 2.8. The assessment is undertaken based on the following key tasks and structure:
- Establishment of the Baseline or receiving environment;
 - Appreciation of the Proposed Development; and
 - Assessment of effects.

Effects Scoped Out

- 2.9. It is envisaged that the Proposed Development will have a design life of at least 25 years. It will therefore become a long-term feature in the landscape following the completion of construction works. The assessment takes account of this in the determination of residual landscape and visual effects.
- 2.10. Effects arising from the process of decommissioning of the Proposed Development are considered to be of a similar nature and duration to those arising from the construction process and therefore have not been considered separately in this chapter. Where this

assessment refers to potential construction effects of structures, these are also representative of predicted decommissioning effects.

Assessment of Effects

- 2.11. The landscape and visual impact assessment seeks to identify, predict and evaluate the significance of potential effects to landscape characteristics and established views. The assessments are based on an evaluation of the value and susceptibility, and therefore sensitivity to change and the magnitude of change for each landscape or visual receptor.
- 2.12. The assessment acknowledges that landscape and visual effects change over time as the existing landscape evolves. The assessment therefore reports on likely effects during both construction and operation of the Proposed Development. The visibility of the Proposed Development in the landscape or view will vary according to the existing screening effects of local topography, structures and buildings, intervening existing vegetation.

Study Area

- 2.13. The initial 'Area of Search' extended 20km from the Proposed Development boundary to the north, south, east, and west. This was informed by consideration of the location and scale of the Proposed Development and desk-based analysis of mapping and aerial photography. A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) incorporating the 20km initial study area was used to determine the potential visibility of the Proposed Development (refer to **Figure 1.3a: Appendix 1A**). Fieldwork was subsequently undertaken to verify the findings of the desk study. This analysis determined the study area, defined as the extent in which the Scheme may result in significant landscape or visual effects.
- 2.14. A core study area of 5km radius has been set from the application site boundary for the assessment. The core study area has been selected to identify potential significant landscape and visual impacts within Aberdeenshire. The extent of the study area has been identified through the production of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping (refer to **Figure 1.3b: Appendix 1A**), a review of maps and aerial photographs and site survey data. It is acknowledged that the Proposed Development may be visible from locations beyond the core study area of 5km radius and as such, it is important to note that the core study area defines the area within which potential effects could be significant, rather than defining the extent of visibility.

Landscape Effects

- 2.15. Landscape effects describe the impact on the fabric or structure of a landscape or landscape character.

- 2.16. The assessment of landscape effects firstly requires the identification of the components of the landscape. The landscape components are also described as landscape receptors and comprise the following:
- Individual landscape elements or features;
 - Specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects; and
 - Landscape character, or the distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements (natural and man-made) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another.
- 2.17. The assessment identifies the interaction between these components and the Proposed Development during the construction and operational phases. The condition of the landscape and any evidence of current pressures causing change in the landscape will also be documented and described.

Landscape Value

- 2.18. Landscape value is frequently addressed by reference to international, national, regional and local designations, determined by statutory and planning agencies. However, absence of such a designation does not necessarily imply a lack of quality or value. Factors such as accessibility and local scarcity can render areas of nationally unremarkable quality, highly valuable as a local resource. The quality and condition are also considered in the determination of the value of a landscape. The evaluation of landscape value is undertaken with reference to the definitions stated in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Landscape Value

Landscape value	Classification criteria
High	Nationally designated or iconic, unspoilt landscape with few, if any, degrading elements.
Medium	Regionally or locally designated landscape, or an undesignated landscape with locally important landmark features and some detracting elements.
Low	Undesignated landscape with few if any distinct features or with several degrading elements.

Landscape Susceptibility

- 2.19. Landscape susceptibility relates to the ability of a particular landscape to accommodate the Proposed Development. Landscape susceptibility is appraised through consideration of the baseline characteristics of the landscape, and in particular the scale or complexity of a given landscape.
- 2.20. The evaluation of landscape susceptibility is undertaken with reference to a three-point scale, as outlined in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2: Landscape Susceptibility Criteria

Landscape susceptibility	Classification criteria
High	Small scale, intimate or complex landscape considered to be intolerant of even minor change.
Medium	Medium scale, more open or less complex landscape considered tolerant to some degree of change.
Low	Large scale, simple landscape considered tolerant of a large degree of change.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 2.21. Landscape sensitivity to change is determined by employing professional judgement to combine value and susceptibility in order to determine landscape sensitivity, with reference to the table outlined below.

Table 2.3: Landscape Sensitivity to Change Criteria

Landscape sensitivity	Classification criteria
High	<p>Landscape characteristics or features with little or no capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character.</p> <p>Landscape designated for its international or national landscape value or with highly valued features.</p> <p>Outstanding example in the area of well cared for landscape or set of features that combine to give a particularly distinctive sense of place.</p> <p>Few detracting or incongruous elements.</p>
Medium-High	Landscape characteristics or features with a low capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character.

	<p>Landscape designated for regional or county-wide landscape value where the characteristics or qualities that provided the basis for their designation are apparent or a landscape with highly valued features locally.</p> <p>Good example in the area of a well-cared for landscape or set of features that combine to give a clearly defined sense of place.</p>
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Landscape characteristics or features with moderate capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character.</p> <p>Landscape designated for its local landscape value or a regional designated landscape where the characteristics and qualities that led to the designation of the area are less apparent or are partially eroded or an undesignated landscape which may be valued locally – for example an important open space.</p> <p>An example of a landscape or a set of features which is relatively coherent, with a good but not exceptional sense of place - occasional buildings and spaces may lack quality and cohesion.</p>
<p>Medium-Low</p>	<p>Landscape characteristics or features which are reasonably tolerant of change without detriment to their present character.</p> <p>No designation present or of little local value.</p> <p>An example of an un-stimulating landscape or set of features; with some areas lacking a sense of place and identity.</p>
<p>Low</p>	<p>Landscape characteristics or features which are tolerant of change without detriment to their present character.</p> <p>An area with a weak sense of place and/ or poorly defined character/ identity.</p> <p>No designation present or of low local value or in poor condition.</p> <p>An example of monotonous unattractive visually conflicting or degraded landscape or set of features.</p>

Magnitude of Landscape Change

2.22. Magnitude of change is an expression of the size or scale of change in the landscape, the geographical extent of the area influenced and the duration and reversibility of the resultant effect. The variables involved are described below (from Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013):

- The extent of existing landscape elements that will be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape;

- The extent to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones;
- Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are integral to its distinctive character;
- The geographic area over which the landscape effects will be felt (within the site itself; the immediate setting of the site; at the scale of the landscape type or character area; on a larger scale influencing several landscape types or character areas); and
- The duration of the effects (short term, medium term or long term) and the reversibility of the effect (whether it is permanent, temporary or partially reversible).

2.23. Changes to landscape characteristics can be both direct and indirect. **Direct change** occurs where the Proposed Development will result in a physical change to the landscape within or adjacent to the site. **Indirect changes** are a consequence of the direct changes resulting from the Proposed Development. They can often occur away from the site (for example, off-site construction staff parking) and may be a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway (for example, a new road or footpath construction may increase public access and associated problems e.g. littering). They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects. The magnitude of change affecting the baseline landscape resource is based on an interpretation of a combination of the criteria set out in **Table 2.4**.

Table 2.4: Magnitude of Landscape Change Criteria (Landscape Effects)

Magnitude of landscape change	Classification criteria
None	No change.
Negligible	Little perceptible change.
Low	Minor change, affecting some characteristics and the experience of the landscape to an extent; and Introduction of elements that is not uncharacteristic.
Medium	Noticeable change, affecting some key characteristics and the experience of the landscape; and Introduction of some uncharacteristic elements.
High	Noticeable change, affecting many key characteristics and the experience of the landscape; and Introduction of many incongruous developments.
Very High	Highly noticeable change, affecting most key characteristics and dominating the experience of the landscape; and Introduction of highly incongruous development.

VISUAL EFFECTS

- 2.24. Visual effects are determined by the extent of visibility and the nature of the visibility (i.e. how a development is seen within the landscape); for example, whether it appears integrated and balanced within the visual composition of a view or whether it creates a focal point.
- 2.25. Adverse visual effects may occur through the intrusion of new elements into established views, which are out of keeping with the existing structure, scale and composition of the view. Visual effects may also be beneficial, where an attractive focus is created in a previously unremarkable view, or the influence of previously detracting features is reduced. The significance of effects will vary, depending on the nature and degree of change experienced and the perceived value and composition of the existing view.

Receptors

- 2.26. For there to be a visual impact, there is the need for a viewer. Views experienced from locations such as settlements, recognised routes and popular vantage points used by the

public have been included in the assessment. Receptors are the viewers at these locations. The degree to which receptors, i.e. people, will be affected by changes as a result of the Proposed Development depends on a number of factors, including:

- Receptor activities, such as taking part in leisure, recreational and sporting activities, travelling or working;
- Whether receptors are likely to be stationary or moving and how long they will be exposed to the change at any one time;
- The importance of the location, as reflected by designations, inclusion in guidebooks or other travel literature, or the facilities provided for visitors;
- The extent of the route or area over which the changes will be visible;
- Whether receptors will be exposed to the change daily, frequently, occasionally or rarely;
- The orientation of receptors in relation to the site and whether views are open or intermittent;
- Proportion of the developments that will be visible (full, sections or none);
- Viewing direction, distance (i.e. short-, medium- and long-distance views) and elevation;
- Nature of the viewing experience (for example, static views, views from settlements and views from sequential points along routes);
- Accessibility of viewpoint (public or private, ease of access);
- Nature of changes (for example, changes in the existing skyline profile, creation of a new visual focus in the view, introduction of new man-made objects, changes in visual simplicity or complexity, alteration of visual scale, landform and change to the degree of visual enclosure); and
- Nature of visual receptors (type, potential number and sensitivity of viewers who may be affected).

Value of the View

- 2.27. Value of the view is an appraisal of the value attached to views and is often informed by the appearance on Ordnance Survey maps, tourist maps and in guidebooks, literature, or art.

Value can also be indicated by the provision of parking or services and signage and interpretation. The nature and composition of the view is also an indicator. The value of the view is determined with reference to the definitions outlined in **Table 2.5**.

Table 2.5: Value of the View

Value	Classification criteria
High	Nationally recognised view of the landscape, with no detracting elements.
Medium	Regionally or locally recognised view, or unrecognised but pleasing and well composed view, with few detracting elements.
Low	Typical or poorly composed view often with numerous detracting elements.

Visual Susceptibility

2.28. GLVIA3 identify that the susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is a function of:

- The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at a particular location; and
- The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and visual amenity they experience at particular locations.

2.29. For example, residents in their home, walkers whose interest is likely to be focused on the landscape or a particular view, or visitors at an attraction where views are an important part of the experience often indicate a higher level of susceptibility. Whereas receptors occupied in outdoor sport, where views are not important, or at their place of work, are often considered less susceptible to change. Visual susceptibility is determined with reference to the three-point scale and criteria outlined in **Table 2.6**.

Table 2.6: Visual Susceptibility

Susceptibility	Classification criteria
High	Receptors for which the view is of primary importance and are likely to notice even minor change.
Medium	Receptors for which the view is important but not the primary focus and are tolerant of some change.

Low	Receptors for which the view is incidental or unimportant and are tolerant of a high degree of change.
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Visual Sensitivity

- 2.30. Sensitivity to change considers the nature of the receptor; for example, a person occupying a residential dwelling is generally more sensitive to change than someone working in a factory unit. The importance of the view experienced by the receptor also contributes to an understanding of the susceptibility of the visual receptor to change as well as the value attached to the view.
- 2.31. A judgement is also made on the value attached to the views experienced. This takes account of:
- Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations;
 - Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearance in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment (sign boards, interpretive material) and references to them in literature or art; and
 - Possible local value; it is important to note that the absence of view recognition does not preclude local value, as a view may be important as a resource in the local or immediate environment due to its relative rarity or local importance.
- 2.32. The visual sensitivity to change is based on interpretation of a combination of all or some of the criteria outlined in Table 2.7.

Table 2.7: Sensitivity to Change Criteria

Visual sensitivity	Classification criteria
High	Users of outdoor recreational facilities, on recognised national cycling or walking routes or in nationally designated landscapes. Residential buildings.
Medium-High	Users of outdoor recreational facilities, in highly valued landscapes or locally designated landscapes or on local recreational routes that are well publicised in guidebooks. Road and rail users in nationally designated landscapes or on recognised scenic routes, likely to be travelling to enjoy the view.
Medium	Users of outdoor recreational facilities including public open space in moderately valued landscapes. Users of primary transport road network, orientated towards the site, likely to be travelling for other purposes than just the view.
Medium-Low	People engaged in active outdoor sports or recreation and less likely to focus on the view. Primary transport road network and rail users likely to be travelling to work with oblique views of the Proposed Development or users of minor road network.
Low	People engaged in work activities indoors, with limited opportunity for views of the Proposed Development.

Magnitude of Visual Change

2.33. Visual effects are direct effects as the magnitude of change within an existing view will be determined by the extent of visibility of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of the visual effect resulting from the development at any particular viewpoint or receptor is based on the size or scale of change in the view, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The variables involved, as per Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute, IEMA, 2013, are described below:

- The scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the development;

- The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape form, scale, mass, line, height, skylining, back-grounding, visual clues, focal points, colour and texture;
- The nature of the view of the Proposed Development, in relation to the amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses;
- The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, distance of the viewpoint from the development and the extent of the area over which the changes will be visible; and
- The duration of the effects (short term, medium term or long term) and the reversibility of the effect (whether it is permanent, temporary or partially reversible).

2.34. The magnitude of visual effect resulting from the development at any particular viewpoint or receptor is based on the interpretation of the above range of factors and is set out in **Table 2.8**.

Table 2.8: Magnitude of Visual Change Criteria (Visual Effects)

Magnitude of visual change	Classification criteria
None	No change in the existing view.
Negligible	The Proposed Development will cause a barely discernible change in the existing view.
Low	The Proposed Development will cause very minor changes to the view over a wide area or minor changes over a limited area.
Medium	The Proposed Development will cause modest changes to the existing view over a wide area or noticeable change over a limited area.
High	The Proposed Development will cause a considerable change in the existing view over a wide area or a significant change over a limited area.
Very High	The Proposed Development will cause significant changes in the existing view over a wide area or a change which will dominate over a limited area.

DURATION AND QUALITY OF EFFECTS

2.35. Table 2.9 provides the definition of the duration of landscape and visual effects.

Table 2.9: Definition of Duration of Effects

Duration	Description
Temporary	Effects lasting one year or less.
Short Term	Effects lasting one to seven years.
Medium Term	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
Long Term	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
Permanent	Effects lasting over sixty years.

2.36. Both, landscape and visual effects, can be beneficial (positive), adverse (negative) or Neutral according to the definitions set out in the Table 2.10.

Table 2.10: Definition of Quality of Effects

Quality of effects	Description
Neutral	This will neither enhance nor detract from the landscape character or view.
Beneficial (positive)	This will improve or enhance the landscape character or view.
Adverse (negative)	This will reduce the quality of the existing landscape character or view.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

2.37. The objective of the assessment process is to identify and evaluate the potentially significant effects arising from the Proposed Development. The assessment will identify the residual

effects likely to arise from the finalised design considering mitigation measures and the change over time.

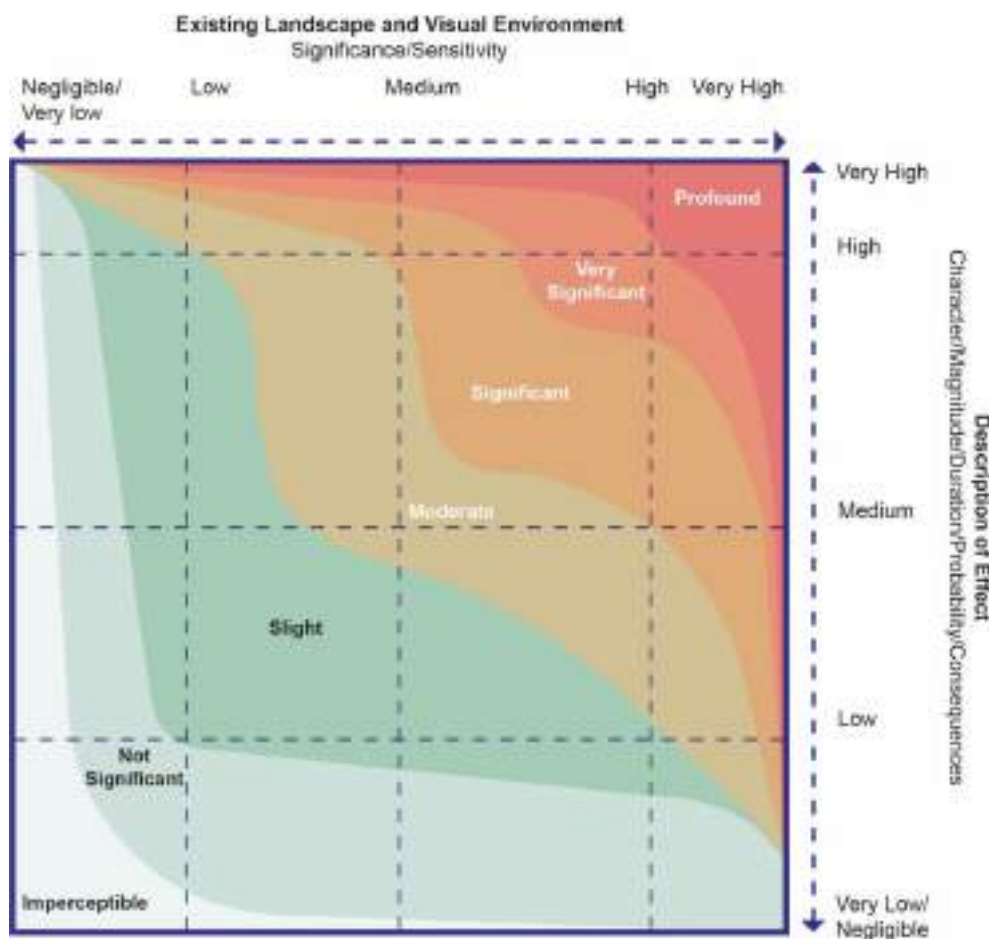
- 2.38. The significance of effects is assessed by considering the sensitivity of the receptor and the predicted magnitude of effect in relation to the baseline conditions. In order to provide a level of consistency and transparency to the assessment and allow comparisons to be made between the various landscape and visual receptors subject to assessment, the assessment of significance is informed by pre-defined criteria as outlined in **Table 2.11**. When assessing significance, individual effects may fall across several different categories of significance and professional judgement is therefore used to determine which category of significance best fits the overall effect to a landscape or visual receptor.

Table 2.11: Categories of Significance of Landscape and Visual Effects

Significance category	Description of effect
Profound	An effect that obliterates sensitive characteristics within the landscape and/ or visual environment.
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the landscape and/ or visual environment.
Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the landscape and/ or visual environment.
Moderate	An effect that alters the landscape in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the landscape and/ or visual environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the landscape and/ or visual environment but without significant landscape and/ or visual consequences.
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant landscape and/ or visual consequences.

- 2.39. The significance of the effect is determined by considering the magnitude of the effect and the quality of the baseline environment affected by the Proposed Development. The basis for consideration of the significance of effects is included in **Image 2.1** below.

Image 2.1: Basis for considering the significance of effects



- 2.40. Effects will be assessed for all phases of the Proposed Development. Construction and decommissioning effects are considered to be temporary, short-term effects which occur during the construction and decommissioning phases only. Operational/ residual effects are those long-term effects, which will occur as a result of the presence or operation of the Proposed Development.
- 2.41. The quality of each effect is based on the ability of the landscape character or visual receptor to accommodate the Proposed Development, and the impact of the development within the receiving context. Once this is done, the quality of the effect is then assessed as being neutral, beneficial or adverse. A change to the landscape or visual resource is not considered to be adverse simply because it constitutes an alteration to the existing situation.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 2.42. The approach used to determine cumulative effects has drawn on guidance on cumulative impact assessment published by the GLVIA3. Cumulative landscape and visual effects may result from additional changes to the baseline landscape or views as a result of the Proposed Development in conjunction with other developments of a similar type and scale.
- 2.43. Cumulative effects are those that accrue over time and space from a number of development activities. The impact of the Proposed Development is considered in conjunction with the potential impacts from other projects or activities which are both reasonably foreseeable in terms of delivery (i.e. have planning consent or relevant applications which have been submitted and are in the planning system) and are located within a realistic geographical scope, where environmental impacts could act together with the Proposed Development to create a more significant overall effect.
- 2.44. Combined effects are those resulting from a single development (the Proposed Development) on any one receptor that may collectively cause a greater effect.

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects

- 2.45. The principle of magnitude of cumulative effects makes it possible for the Proposed Development to have a major impact on a particular receptor, while having only a minor cumulative impact in conjunction with permitted developments of similar scale and nature as the Proposed Development.
- 2.46. The evaluation of the magnitude of cumulative change is based on the criteria outlined in the assessment methodology for landscape and visual effects as stated above as well as on the interpretation of the following parameters:
- The additional extent, direction and distribution of existing and other developments in conjunction with the Proposed Development;
 - The distance between the viewpoint, the Proposed Development and the cumulative developments; and
 - The landscape setting, context and degree of visual coalescence of the Proposed Development and cumulative developments.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

- 2.47. As for the assessment of landscape and visual effects, the significance of any cumulative effects follows a same classification as illustrated in **Image 2.1** and as listed in **Table 2.11**, and will be assessed as Profound, Very Significant, Moderate, Slight, Not Significant, Imperceptible.
- 2.48. The cumulative assessment focuses on potential cumulative effects relating to the main permanent structure of a cumulative development. This is due to the uncertainty of the timing of construction activities for identified developments. As a result, temporary structures and activity relating to construction have not been considered within the cumulative assessment.

FIELDWORK

- 2.49. Site surveys of the study area were carried out in July 2023 identifying the potential visibility of the Proposed Development and key viewpoints within the study area. The extent of the study area has been identified through the production of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping, (see **Figures 1.3a and 1.3b, Appendix 1A**), a review of maps and aerial photographs, and site survey data. Photomontages showing the existing view and the superimposed development on photomontages have been produced from key representative viewpoints, considering topography, existing buildings, screening vegetation and other localised factors. The photomontages included in **Appendix A (Figures 1.5a – Figure 1.10b)** provides details on viewpoint locations.

INTERACTION OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

- 2.50. The landscape and visual impact assessment focuses on the physical and visual appearance and character of the landscape as it is experienced today.
- 2.51. Landscape is also a consideration under other environmental aspects and assessments, e.g. the natural landscape (biodiversity), the geological landscape (soil and geology), the cultural/historical landscape (cultural heritage), the human landscape (human health).
- 2.52. While it is evident that an interaction of effects exists between the landscape and visual environment and these other related landscape environments/environmental factors – not least in terms of potential for interactions of effects – assessments under these areas are generally addressed separately by other competent specialists in separate appendices of this

planning application. However, the presence/absence of such indicators can inform judgements on quality and therefore, sensitivity.

SELECTION OF VIEWPOINTS

2.53. It is not feasible to take photography from every possible viewpoint located in the study area. Photography has been taken from viewpoints, which are representative of the nature of visibility at various distances and in various contexts. Viewpoint photography is used as a tool to come to understand the nature of likely significant effects. The selection process of viewpoint locations is consistent with the Guidance Note; *'Visual Representation of Development Proposals'*, Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19, 17 September 2019 and is as follows:

- The location of viewpoints within the study area is informed by desktop and site surveys;
- Production of a 5km radius ZTV mapping from the Proposed Development at 77m;
- Identification and selection of representative viewpoints showing typical open or intermittent views within a local area, which will be frequently experienced by a range of viewers; and
- Identification and selection of specific viewpoints from key viewpoints in the landscape such as protected focal points and views.

PHOTOMONTAGES

2.54. Photomontages are photorealistic visualisations produced using specialist software. They illustrate the likely future appearance of the Proposed Development from a specific viewing point. They are useful tools for examining the impact of the development from a number of critical viewpoint positions along the public road network within the study area.

2.55. However, photomontages in themselves can never provide the full picture in terms of potential effects, they can only inform the assessment process by which judgements are made. A visualisation can never show exactly what the Proposed Development will look like in reality due to factors such as; different lighting, weather and seasonal conditions which vary through time and the resolution of the image. As the photomontages are representative of viewing conditions encountered, some of them may show existing buildings or vegetation

screening some or all parts of the developments. Such conditions are normal and representative.

- 2.56. The images provided give a reasonable impression of the scale of the development and the distance to the development, but it is recognised and understood within the industry that they can never be 100% accurate. It is recommended that decision-makers and any interested parties or members of the public should ideally visit the viewpoints, where visualisations can be compared to the 'real life' view, and the full impact of the Proposed Development can be understood.
- 2.57. The landscape and visual impact assessment identified a range of viewpoints located within the study area at varying distances from the Application Site to show the effect of the Proposed Development in key close, middle and distant views.
- 2.58. Photomontage images have been produced according to the following industry guidelines:
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA), 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, IEMA, 2013; and
 - 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals', Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19, 17 September 2019.

ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY

- 2.59. Mapping the extent of the area from which a development is likely to be visible is commonly referred to as a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).
- 2.60. ZTV mapping has been produced for a 5km radius from the Proposed Turbine location to illustrate the theoretical visual extent of the highest point of the Proposed Development. The zone of theoretical visibility has been assessed based upon the 77m Turbine height above the finished ground floor level.
- 2.61. It should be noted that ZTV mapping does not consider the effects of seasons, lighting, weather conditions or visibility over distance. Moreover, a ZTV does not consider the screening effects of existing vegetation or built structures and therefore indicates a 'worst case scenario'. Therefore, ZTV mappings' principal use was to assist during the desktop viewpoint selection process identifying viewpoints for further analysis on site.

3. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

3.1. This section of the LVIA sets out the relevant planning policy context for the Proposed Development.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4

3.2. The fourth National Planning Framework^{8,9} (NPF4) was published in February 2023 and sets out a long-term vision for development and investment across Scotland over the next 20 to 30 years. It brings together Scotland's plans and strategies in economic development, regeneration, energy, environment, climate change, transport and digital infrastructure to provide a vision of how Scotland should evolve over the next three decades. NPF4 is split into two parts; Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 and Part 2 – National Planning Policy.

3.3. Part 1 is underpinned by six overarching spatial principles. These are:

- **Just transition** – ensuring the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive
- **Conserving and recycling assets** – making efficient use of existing infrastructure, places and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste and building a circular economy
- **Local living** – supporting local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally
- **Compact urban growth** – limit urban expansion and optimise land use to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity
- **Rebalanced development** – target development to create opportunities for communities and invest in areas of decline and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand
- **Rural revitalisation** – encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together

⁸ National Planning Framework 4 (2023)

⁹ NPF4 replaces NPF3 and Scottish Planning Policy

- 3.4. Page 4 highlights that these principles will play a key role in delivering the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as Scotland’s national spatial strategy and will support the delivery of:
- Sustainable places,
 - Liveable places, and;
 - Productive places.
- 3.5. These headings are discussed further in Part 2, which sets out the national planning policies which should be taken into account throughout the decision-making process. In the context of the Proposed Development, the most relevant policies are discussed in more detail below.

Policy 1 – Tackling the climate and nature crises.

- 3.6. Policy 1 states that “when considering all development proposals, significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises”.

Policy 2 – Climate mitigation and adaptation

- 3.7. Policy 2 states that “a) development proposals will be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible; b) development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change and c) development proposals to retrofit measures to existing developments that reduce emissions or support adaptation to climate will be supported”.

Policy 3 – Biodiversity

- 3.8. Policy 3 aims to “protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks”. It further states that “any potential adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, or development proposals on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design”.

Policy 4 – Natural places

- 3.9. Policy 4 aims to protect and restore natural places, as well as managing natural assets in a sustainable way. It further states that “*development proposals which by virtue of type, location and scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported*”.

Policy 5 – Soils

- 3.10. Policy 5 states that “development proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and the minimising the amount of disturbance to soils on undeveloped land, and in a manner that protects soils from damage”.

Policy 9 – Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

- 3.11. Policy 9 aims to “encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need to greenfield development”. It further states that development should be directed the right locations and should maximise the use of existing assets, as well as minimising additional land take. The policy highlights that development proposals that will result in the sustainable reuse of brownfield land will be supported.

Policy 11 – Energy

- 3.12. Policy 11 encourages, promotes and aims to facilitate all forms of renewable energy development, which includes replacement energy infrastructure. The policy highlights “*development proposals for all forms of renewable energy, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported*” which specifically includes “*wind farms including repowering, extending, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms*”.
- 3.13. Furthermore, it is noted that “project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:
- *Impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;*
 - *Significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;*
 - *Public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes;*
 - *Impacts on aviation and defence interests including seismological recording;*
 - *Impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;*
 - *Impacts on road traffic and on adjacent trunk roads, including during construction;*
 - *Impacts on historic environment;*
 - *Effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;*

- *Biodiversity including impacts on birds;*
 - *Impacts on trees, woods and forests;*
 - *Proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;*
 - *The quality of site restoration plans including the measures in place to safeguard or guarantee availability of finances to effectively implement those plans; and*
 - *Cumulative impacts”.*
- 3.14. Policy 11 further states that, in considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 3.15. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan²⁶ (LDP) was adopted in January 2023 and is underpinned by nine policies which aim to balance economic growth with the urgent challenges of sustainable development and climate change. It is noted that as the LDP was adopted prior to the NPF4 being published that some inconsistencies may occur, in which case NPF4 will take priority. Policies that are considered to be relevant to the Proposed Development in the context of this assessment are discussed in more detail below.

Policy E2 – Landscape

- 3.16. Paragraph E2.1 states “We will refuse development that causes unacceptable effects through its scale, location or design on key characteristics, natural landscape elements, features or the composition or quality of the landscape character as defined in the Landscape Character Assessments produced by NatureScot. These impacts can be either alone or cumulatively with other recent developments. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) may be required to assess the effects of change on a landscape that could be experienced should a development proposal be approved. Appropriate mitigation should be identified.”
- 3.17. Paragraph E2.2 states “Development that has a significant adverse impact on the qualifying interests of a Special Landscape Area will not be permitted unless it is adequately demonstrated that these effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance. Appendix 13 on Special Landscape Areas is also intended to be used as a guide by prospective developers in assessing potential impact. Development, in terms of its location, scale, design, materials and landscaping, should be of a high standard and enhance the special qualities and character of the Special Landscape Area.”

Wind Energy

- 3.18. In relation to wind energy, paragraph C2.2 states “we will approve wind energy developments in appropriate locations taking into account the spatial framework mapping at the end of this section. Detailed guidance is set out in the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire Final Report 2014. This guidance remains relevant but is not a substitute for detailed assessment of the landscape impact of specific development proposals”.
- 3.19. Paragraph C2.3 states “all wind farms must be appropriately sited and designed and avoid unacceptable environmental effects, taking into account the cumulative effects of existing and approved wind turbines. All wind turbines sites must be appropriate for use in perpetuity at the scale being proposed. Amendments to include larger blades or towers are likely to require a new application. Full repowering, where the wind turbines are dismantled and new wind turbines are installed, is likely to require revision of environmental information and a new planning application. Lifetime extension, where new technology is installed, or components are upgraded and replaced but the overall external layout of a wind farm remains unchanged (e.g. hub height, siting, size), may not require a new application provided the scale and predicted impacts are no greater than those anticipated from the original proposal. Existing infrastructure, including turbine bases, should be reused where possible. The existence of a planning permission for a wind turbine will be a material consideration for proposals for repowering existing wind turbines.”
- 3.20. Paragraph C2.4 states “turbines must not compromise health and safety or adversely affect aircraft or airfields (including radar and air traffic control systems, flight paths and Ministry of Defence low flying areas) and/or telecommunications. Unacceptable significant adverse effects on the amenity of dwellinghouses, such as from noise, or on tourism and recreation interests including core paths and other established routes used for public walking, riding or cycling, or to protected species should also be avoided.”

Policy P2 – Open Space and Access in New Development

- 3.21. Paragraph P2.6 states “existing and potential public access routes (including core paths and other routes, such as public rights of way) should be protected and new developments must include appropriate opportunities for informal recreation and safe active travel, including walking and cycling, wheeling (travelling by wheelchair), riding etc. Statements or plans detailing proposals should be included in Design Frameworks or Masterplans or submitted with the planning application. Construction of new paths must comply with best practice set out in Planning Advice, 10/2015 Outdoor Access and Development”.

4. BASELINE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1. A baseline study has been undertaken through a combination of desk-based research and site appraisal in order to establish the existing conditions of the landscape and visual resources of the study area. Desk based research involved a review of mapping and aerial photography, relevant planning, and policy documents, the relevant Scottish Landscape Character Assessments and other relevant documents and publications.
- 4.2. A study area radius of 5km from the Application Site boundary has been selected to identify potential significant landscape and visual effects (**Figure 1.1, Appendix 1A**). The study area was defined to an area where landscape and visual effects could potentially be significant rather than defining the extent of the visibility of the Proposed Development, which has been identified through the production of ZTV mapping (**Figure 1.2a, Appendix 1A**), a review of maps and aerial photographs and site surveys.
- 4.3. Given the nature of the Proposed Development works and existing site context, the visual extent, in reality, is often far less than 5km, and significant effects are mainly confined to immediately adjacent locations.

Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy

- 4.4. As shown in the Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Landscape Heritage Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire¹⁰ the Proposed Development is located within the Agricultural Heartland - 1(iv) Upland Ridges South of the Deveron Landscape Character Type (LCT). As described on page 52, this area *“comprises the convex slopes and broad ridges above the river valleys of the Deveron, Ythan and their tributaries. The rounded hills are all of a similar height, divided by occasional, insignificant streams. There are medium-large scale fields with sparse tree cover, but occasional broadleaved trees running along skylines and around farms”*. It should be noted that this LCT is not recognised as a designated LCT by NatureScot. Designated LCTs are discussed in more detail in paragraphs 4.10 – 1.

¹⁰ [Strategy Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire \(2014\)](#)

- 4.5. Page 56 of the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy sets out the limits for development in relation to the LCT. To summarise, the LCT is rated “medium” for landscape character sensitivity, visual sensitivity and landscape sensitivity, and “medium-low” for landscape value. It recognises that *“this area has an underlying capacity to accommodate wind energy due to its scale, landform, simple pattern, open character and low value. It could accommodate small clusters of small, medium and large turbines”*.
- 4.6. As highlighted in the paragraph above, the Proposed Development is located within an Area with *“Limited Underlying Capacity”* for wind development, and states that *“most of the remaining lowland and coastal area of Aberdeenshire have some underlying capacity for wind development but are generally not suited to larger turbines, large grouping or extensive concentrations of wind turbine development.”*

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE ASSESSMENT

- 4.7. NatureScot, Scotland’s Nature Agency, has created a digital map based National Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)¹¹. This shows Landscape Character Types (LCTs) areas of consistent and recognisable landscape character.
- 4.8. The Application Site falls within LCT 32 - Farmed and Wooded River Valleys with LCT 19 – Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills located within 2km of the Proposed Development boundary. LCT 32 - Farmed and Wooded River Valleys. LCT 288 - Upland Farmland, LCT 18 – Low Hills and Basins and LCT 27 Farmed Moorland Edge are also located within the 5km study area.
- 4.9. Nature Scot describes LCT 32 - Farmed and Wooded River Valleys¹² as *“Comprising of well settled, wooded and diverse valleys of the Rivers Deveron Bogie and Ythan. They form a significant feature within the extensive agricultural heartlands of Aberdeenshire, flowing out to the sea at Macduff. The landscape is attractive with a high degree of integrity.”*
- 4.10. Typical characteristics of LCT 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys include:

¹¹[Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions](#)

¹²[Landscape Character Type 32 - Farmed and Wooded River Valleyshttps://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT_032 - Farmed and Wooded River Valleys - Final pdf.pdf](https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT_032_-_Farmed_and_Wooded_River_Valleys_-_Final.pdf)

- The Ythan has an open character between Turrif and Fyvie, in a broad shallow valley with fenced pasture floodplain. The river is narrow and straightened in this area. East of Fyvie, it is narrow, deeply incised and meandering, contained by steep slopes.
 - The River Deveron, aligned through a relatively broad valley strongly contained by rolling hills.
 - Wooded policies and small parklands in places.
 - Little marginal or wetland vegetation on the floodplains, with farmland abutting both rivers except where semi-natural woodland comes down to the river banks in more inaccessible, steep-sided areas.
 - Mixed woodland with policies of designed landscapes extending onto the rolling hills.
 - Well settled hill slopes overlooking the valleys with relatively large farms.
 - Villages and large market towns.
 - Castles, mansion houses and historic built features.
 - Quiet roads and paths giving a sense of seclusion, contrasting with the busy A947 Aberdeen to Banff arterial route.
- 4.11. Nature Scot describes the Landscape Character Type LCT 19 – Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills¹³ as *“The smoothly rounded ridges and broad open hill tops of the Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills landscape have an even height of between 200-300 metres and are divided by numerous yet insignificant water courses, weaving through the hills and cutting narrow valleys. These feed the neighbouring Deveron, Ythan and Bogie rivers. The softly rounded hills, with convex slopes and broad ridges form smooth sweeping curves that draw the eye across the terrain.”*
- 4.12. Typical characteristics of LCT 19 – Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills include:
-

¹³ [Landscape Character Type 19 - Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills](#)

- Softly rounded hills and ridges forming rolling topography with sweeping curves.
- Narrow valleys with small watercourses.
- Simple pattern of medium large rectilinear arable fields and pasture.
- Geometric forests on hill sides.
- Shelterbelts on ridge tops.
- Broadleaf woodland on lower valley sides and dens.
- Farms on lower hill slopes, often with large outbuildings.
- No settlements of significant size.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 4.13. The Proposed Development falls within the Landscape Character Type - 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys. The landscape within LCT has been described as , “...*attractive with a high degree of integrity.*”
- 4.14. The landscape in close proximity to the Proposed Development consists of several other existing wind turbines with the landscape within the immediate site context consisting of commercial forestry blocks of planting and pastoral farmland with residential settlements, farmsteads and small villages found along local roads.
- 4.15. There is no attached Sensitivity associated to the Application Site therefore the Sensitivity Valuation of the site has been assessed and is deemed **Medium - Low**. The Application Site is located within LCT 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys there is electrical infrastructure present within the existing landscape due to several wind turbines being located within 5km of the Proposed Development.

LAND USE AND SETTLEMENT

- 4.16. The Proposed Development will be located within agricultural and grazing pastureland. The Application Site is located in a rural setting on land approximately 1.8km south of Milltown of Rothiemay and approximately 6.3km north of Huntly
- 4.17. The immediate land-use which surrounds the site is mainly agricultural and pastureland. The medium to large field systems are enclosed with fence lined and hedgerow boundaries as well

as pockets of commercial woodland plantations which surround the site and are a feature within this landscape.

FUTURE BASELINE

- 4.18. In landscape terms, if the works did not go ahead, the site and agricultural, pastoral character will remain unchanged.
- 4.19. In visual terms, the content in available views will remain the same, although changes will occur to existing vegetation due to maturing, pruning or natural decay.

5. CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

- 5.1. Areas experiencing landscape and visual effects during the construction stage will vary, depending on active construction works. During the temporary construction phase, there would be a notable increase of construction activity within the confines of the Application Site. The works will have a localised temporary disturbance to a small portion of the rural landscape within LCT 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys.
- 5.2. Construction phase effects will result in:
- Likely effects to landscape character or visual amenity within the locality or the wider study area as a result of the visibility of construction activities such as, the movement of construction vehicles along local roads, and other tall equipment such as machinery on site;
 - Effects of temporary site infrastructure, such as site traffic; and
 - Likely physical effects arising from the construction of the development will be confined to the Site.
- 5.3. The highest landscape and visual effects during the construction stage will be experienced in the immediate vicinity of the development site, from locations with open or partial views of the site. Principal views of construction works will likely be experienced within a radius of up to approximately 1.5km from the boundary of the site.
- 5.4. More distant views at the construction works, beyond 1.5km will be partial, given the amount of screening provided by landform and existing intervening vegetation. Distant views may be possible towards the Proposed Development due to the elevated position of the turbine or from elevated locations within the study area. Considering the distance of the views beyond 1.5km visibility is considered not significant due to the effects of distance, the scale of the project and a high dependency on clear weather conditions. While discernible, the construction effects in long distance views are not considered significant as they form part of a wide panoramic view in which they form one visible component of many.
- 5.5. The landscape and visual effects and their significance at construction stage will be temporary, adverse and range from **Not Significant** to **Slight Adverse** in the wider study area

and from **Moderate** to **Slight Adverse** for areas in close proximity, up to approximately 1.5km radius from the boundary of the Application Site.

OPERATIONAL PHASE

- 5.6. **Figure 1.3 (Appendix 1A)** illustrates viewpoints from locations selected as ‘Representative Viewpoints’ for the assessment of landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development.
- 5.7. Operational effects will result in:
- Likely effects of the development on views and visual amenity such as the potential for the development to alter (beneficial or adverse) the composition of the view from a viewpoint; and
 - Likely cumulative effects of the development in conjunction with other committed developments of similar type and scale upon the landscape and visual resource of the study area.

Landscape Effects

- 5.8. The following likely direct and indirect landscape effects have been identified (along with their duration and nature) arising from the Proposed Development. Direct or indirect landscape effects on the fabric of the landscape and its receptors are closely related to the nature and extent of visibility.
- 5.9. The Proposed Development is located within LCT 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys, as illustrated on **Figure 1.1 (Appendix 1A)**
- 5.10. The main landscape effects of the Proposed Development will be associated with the introduction of one wind turbine replacing a smaller turbine. It is considered that the Proposed Development will not alter the landscape character of LCT 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys, as there is a current wind turbine presence within the area, with the development consisting of a slight increase in scale from the original and baseline scenario. The magnitude of landscape change is considered **Low** and the resulting significance **Slight Adverse** as the site is currently used for an existing wind turbine application.
- 5.11. Indirect change will occur outside of the Proposed Development boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within approximately 1.5km

radius from the development boundary. The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Low**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Slight Adverse**.

- 5.12. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 1.5km and 5km from the Site boundary) to **Not Significant**. Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development, the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in available views.
- 5.13. A summary of landscape effects on receptors located within the study area is provided in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: Summary of Landscape Effects

Receptor	Susceptibility	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Landscape Effects	Significance / Quality of Landscape Effects
Landscape Character Area – within 1.5km of the Site.	Medium	Medium	Low	Slight Adverse
Landscape Character Area – within 5km of the Site.	Medium	Medium	Negligible	Not Significant

Visual Effects

- 5.14. The nearest major town is the town of Huntley, located approximately 6.5km south of the Proposed Developments boundary. There are a number of residential dwellings and farmsteads along the local road network which surround the Site. The local road network consists of the B9118 and B9022 to the west and the B9117 to the north. Local unnamed roads are located to the north and west of the Application Site also which feed into these main routes.
- 5.15. The main visual receptor groups are local residents, vehicle travellers and pedestrians. Residents and pedestrians will have a higher sensitivity to change than the road users. Vehicle travellers will focus primarily on traffic and not on available views, however, the Proposed Development will be seen in transit making the views fleeting in nature.

- 5.16. The majority of residential dwellings in the immediate environment of the Proposed Development are located mainly to the northwest, east and south in the form of one-off houses.
- 5.17. The highest visual effects will be experienced within a radius of approximately 1.5km of the Proposed Development boundary, from locations with open or partial views of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of visual change for views up to 1.5km is considered **Low - Medium** and the significance **Slight Adverse**.
- 5.18. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 1.5km are considered to range between **Slight – Moderate** depending on the openness of views and intervening screening by vegetation, topography or built structures.
- 5.19. In long distance views ranging between approximately 1.5km – 5km, particularly from the road network to the south, north, northeast and northwest, effects will vary from **Negligible** to **Low** and their significance from **Not Significant** to **Slight Adverse**.
- 5.20. Both viewpoints and photomontages shown in **Figures 1.5a – 1.10b (Appendix 1A)** illustrate views from representative viewpoints within both, the core study area and the wider study area.

Viewpoint 1 - View northeast from Ladysmith, Aberdeenshire southwest of the Proposed Development.

- 5.21. Viewpoint 1 (**Figure 1.5a and Figure 1.5b, Appendix 1A**) is representative of views northeast from along a local road travelling north towards Avochie. The distance to the nearest section of the Proposed Development is approximately 1.21km. Views towards the site are distant and somewhat screened by existing vegetation and undulating landform within the landscape.
- 5.22. The value of this view is considered to be Low. The visual receptors are road users travelling north. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Low**, as the main receptor groups will be road users who experience similar views on a daily basis.
- 5.23. The Proposed Development will be seen at a distance, with the lower elements of the turbine screened from view. Existing views are one of electrical infrastructure within the landscape, with the existing turbine centre of the image. From this viewpoint, given the distance and the undulation of the view, the change within this view is imperceptible from the baseline scenario, therefore will not alter the view dramatically. This will result in a **Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Negligible** change to the visual significance.

Viewpoint 2 - View looking northeast from the B9022 southwest of the Proposed Development

- 5.24. Viewpoint 2 (Figures 1.6a and 1.6b, Appendix 1A) is representative of views looking northeast from along the B9022 southwest of the Proposed Development. The distance to the nearest section of the main development area from this viewpoint is approximately 2.7km. The immediate context is one of pastoral land with open grassland and rolling hillocks. There is also a patchwork of mature trees seen across this view, interspersed with agricultural green fields. There are several residential settlements located close to this viewpoint, to the north and south who experience views towards existing turbines from close to this location. Road Users are likely to experience views towards the Proposed Development along this road.
- 5.25. The value of this view is considered to be **Low**. The visual receptors are road users travelling east to west. The sensitivity and susceptibility to change is considered **Medium** as the main receptor groups will be residents and road users who experience this or similar views on a daily basis.
- 5.26. The Proposed Developments slight increase in turbine hub height and blade span will slightly increase its prominence against the skyline compared with the existing turbines. This will result in a **Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Slight Adverse** change to the visual significance.

Viewpoint 3 - View looking southeast from Crofthead, Ruthven, Aberdeenshire northwest of the Proposed Development.

- Viewpoint 3 (Figures 1.7a and 1.7b, Appendix 1A) is representative of views looking southeast from along a local road at Crofthead, Ruthven northwest of the Proposed Development. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is approximately 3.45km. The view is of undulating landscape with rolling hills and a patchwork of woodland interspersed with green fields. The existing turbine is screened from view by vegetation.
- 5.27. The value of this view is considered to be **Low**. The visual receptors are local residents and road users travelling southeast. The sensitivity and susceptibility to change is considered **Low** to **Medium** as the main receptor groups will be road users and residents who experience this or similar views on a daily basis.
- 5.28. The Proposed Development is screen from view by woodland vegetation. There will be **No Change** to this view.

Viewpoint 4 - View looking south from Moray, north of the Proposed Development.

- 5.29. Viewpoint 4 (Figures 1.8a and 1.8b, Appendix 1A) is representative of distant views looking south from Moray, north of the Proposed Development. The distance to the Proposed

Development from this viewpoint is approximately 4.92km. There are several residential receptors in the surrounding area northeast of the Proposed Development who experience elevated distant views to the surrounding landscape. The existing turbine is seen centre of the image, at distance. The immediate context is one of pastoral land with open grassland and rolling hillocks. There is also a patchwork of mature trees seen across this view, interspersed with agricultural green fields.

- 5.30. The value of this view is considered to be **Low**. The visual receptors are local residents and road users travelling along this local road. The sensitivity and susceptibility to change is considered **Medium** as the main receptor groups will be residents who experience this or similar views on a daily basis.
- 5.31. The Proposed Developments slight increase in turbine hub height and blade span will slightly increase its height slightly when compared to the existing turbine. However, the change is imperceptible at this distance. This will result in a **Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Not Significant** change to the landscape and visual significance.

Viewpoint 5 - View looking southwest from a local road northeast of the Proposed Development.

- 5.32. Viewpoint 5 (**Figures 1.9a and 1.9b, Appendix A**) is representative of views looking southwest from along an immediate local road northeast of the Proposed Development. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is approximately 700m. There is a residential receptor in close proximity to this viewpoint who experience views towards the existing turbine. Road Users are likely to experience transient view of the turbines looking east towards the Proposed Development along this road.
- 5.33. The value of this view is considered to be **Low**. The visual receptors are local residents and road users travelling along this local road. The sensitivity and susceptibility to change is considered **Medium** as the main receptor groups will be residents who experience this or similar views on a daily basis.
- 5.34. The Proposed Developments slight increase in turbine hub height and blade span will slightly increase its prominence against the skyline compared with the existing turbines. This will result in a **Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Slight Adverse** change to the landscape and visual significance.

Viewpoint 6 - View looking northwest from Ladysmith, Aberdeenshire south of the Proposed Development.

- 5.35. Viewpoint 6 (**Figure 1.13, Appendix 1A**) is representative of views looking northwest from Ladysmith southeast of the Proposed Developments. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is approximately 4.72km. The immediate context is rural

and agricultural with open grassland and mature woodland defining the view. Road Users are likely to experience partial long distant transient views of the turbines looking northeast towards the Proposed Development along this road.

- 5.36. The value of this view is considered to be **Low**. The visual receptors are local residents and road users travelling north along this road. The sensitivity and susceptibility to change is considered **Low** as the main receptor groups will be road users who experience this or similar views on a daily basis.
- 5.37. The Proposed Developments slight increase in turbine hub height and blade span will slightly increase its height slightly when compared to the existing turbine. However, the change is imperceptible at this distance. This will result in a **Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Not Significant** change to the landscape and visual significance.
- 5.38. A summary of visual effects from representative viewpoint locations is provided in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2 - Summary of Visual Effects from representative viewpoint locations

Receptor	Susceptibility	Visual Sensitivity	Magnitude of visual effects	Significance / quality of visual effects
Viewpoint 1	Low	Low	Low	Not Significant
Viewpoint 2	Medium	Medium	Low	Slight Adverse
Viewpoint 3	Low	Low to Medium	No Change	No Change
Viewpoint 4	Low	Medium	Very Low	Not Significant
Viewpoint 5	Low	Medium	Low	Slight Adverse
Viewpoint 6	Low	Low	Very Low	Not Significant

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 5.39. Cumulative landscape and visual effects may result from additional changes to the baseline landscape or views as a result of the Proposed Development in conjunction with other developments of a similar type and scale.
- 5.40. A search was conducted of relevant planning applications within the vicinity of the Application Site, using the Aberdeenshire Council planning portal online search. There were no permitted Proposed Developments within the study area which are of similar scale to that of the Proposed Development. Therefore, there are no landscape or visual cumulative effects within the study area of the Proposed Development.

MITIGATION MEASURES

- 5.41. The slender vertical form of the Proposed Turbine will mean it will be difficult to completely mitigate it against the surrounding landscape. However, measures can be undertaken to help reduce its impact on the landscape and visual resources of the study area. These measures have been considered at every stage of the Proposed Development from initial design, operation and decommissioning including:
- The turbine will be of a suitable colour and all material finishes chosen to best fit the local landscape.
 - Access to the site will utilise existing entrances and access tracks where possible.
 - Total area of land take will be minimised to reduce the impact on the existing land use.
 - When the turbine is decommissioned, all the turbine's structures will be taken down and removed off site with the disturbed ground appropriately reinstated.

RESIDUAL EFFECTS

- 5.42. Given the scale and location of the Proposed Development, the main landscape and visual mitigation measures focus on design elements which soften or help integrate the Proposed Development into its surroundings. Hence measures will be implemented immediately and come into effect following the completion of construction works. The existing vegetation, while retained (i.e. it is off site and outside the control of the applicant), will screen the lower parts of the existing and Proposed Development.

- 5.43. Considering the possible often localised nature of available views, landscape mitigation will further reduce landscape and visual effects. There may be a slight increase in visual effects during the winter season due to the absence of foliage. The majority of differences in visibility will be experienced locally within an approximate 250m radius depending on the pruning status of intervening hedgerows, as well as the amount of other intervening vegetation. Overall, the difference in visibility is considered not material.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. The Proposed Development will consist of the replacement of an existing turbine within LCT 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys.
- 6.2. The existing turbine is already a feature within the local landscape, visible from various local residential properties and recreational and road users. Here the greatest visual changes will occur from the nearest receptors, where the existing turbine is already a prominent feature upon the skyline, as shown in **Figures 1.5a – 1.10b (Appendix A)**.
- 6.3. The Proposed Turbine's larger blade span will result in an increased prominence of the single wind energy feature which will be most noticeable from the nearest affected visual receptors.
- 6.4. Further away the changes in the turbine model will become less apparent due to the undulating landscape and any screening provided by hedgerows, trees, and buildings within the intervening landscape. The longer blade length will result in some increased visibility of the upper blade tips above other elements in the intervening landscape but only from more distant receptors.

CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS

- 6.5. Landscape and visual effects and their significance at construction stage will be temporary adverse and will result in:
 - Likely effects to landscape character or visual amenity within the locality or the wider study area as a result of the visibility of construction activities such as, cranes, the movement of construction vehicles along local roads, and other tall equipment such as machinery on site.
 - Effects of temporary site infrastructure such as site traffic and temporary site construction compounds; and
 - Likely direct effects arising from construction of the development will be confined to the existing Wind Turbine Site.
- 6.6. The highest landscape and visual effects during the construction stage will be experienced in the vicinity of the Site, from locations with open or partial views. Construction works will not be visible beyond 1.5km, within the 5km core study area in views at elevation, particularly to the north where there is little vegetation screening. While discernible, the construction

effects in long-distance views are not considered significant as they form part of a wide panoramic view in which they form one visible component of many.

OPERATIONAL EFFECTS

Landscape Effects

- 6.7. The Proposed Development is located within LCT 32 – Farmed and Wooded River Valleys (**Figure 1.1, Appendix 1A**). The main landscape effects of the Proposed Development will be associated with the introduction of the repowered wind turbine. The introduction of the wind turbine will lead to no change of the landscape character due to the existing presence of wind turbines in the surrounding landscape. The magnitude of landscape change is considered **Low** and the resulting significance **Slight Adverse** as the site is used for agricultural/pastoral and existing electrical infrastructure.
- 6.8. Indirect change will occur outside of the Proposed Development boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within an approximate 1.5km radius from the development boundary. The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Low**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Slight Adverse**.
- 6.9. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 1.5km to 5km from the Site boundary) to **Not Significant** and **Slight Adverse**. Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in available views.

Visual Effects

- 6.10. The majority of residential dwellings in the immediate environment of the Proposed Development are located within 1.5km in the form of one-off houses and farmsteads.
- 6.11. The highest visual effects will be experienced within an approximate 1.5km radius of the Proposed Development boundary, from locations with open or partial views of the Proposed Development. However, areas experiencing visibility within 1.5km the existing turbines are already a prominent feature within the local landscape, visible from various local residential properties and recreational and road users. The Proposed turbine's larger blade span will result in an increased prominence of the single wind energy feature which will be most

noticeable from the nearest affected visual receptors. The magnitude of visual change for views up to 1.5km is considered **Low - Medium** and the significance **Slight Adverse**.

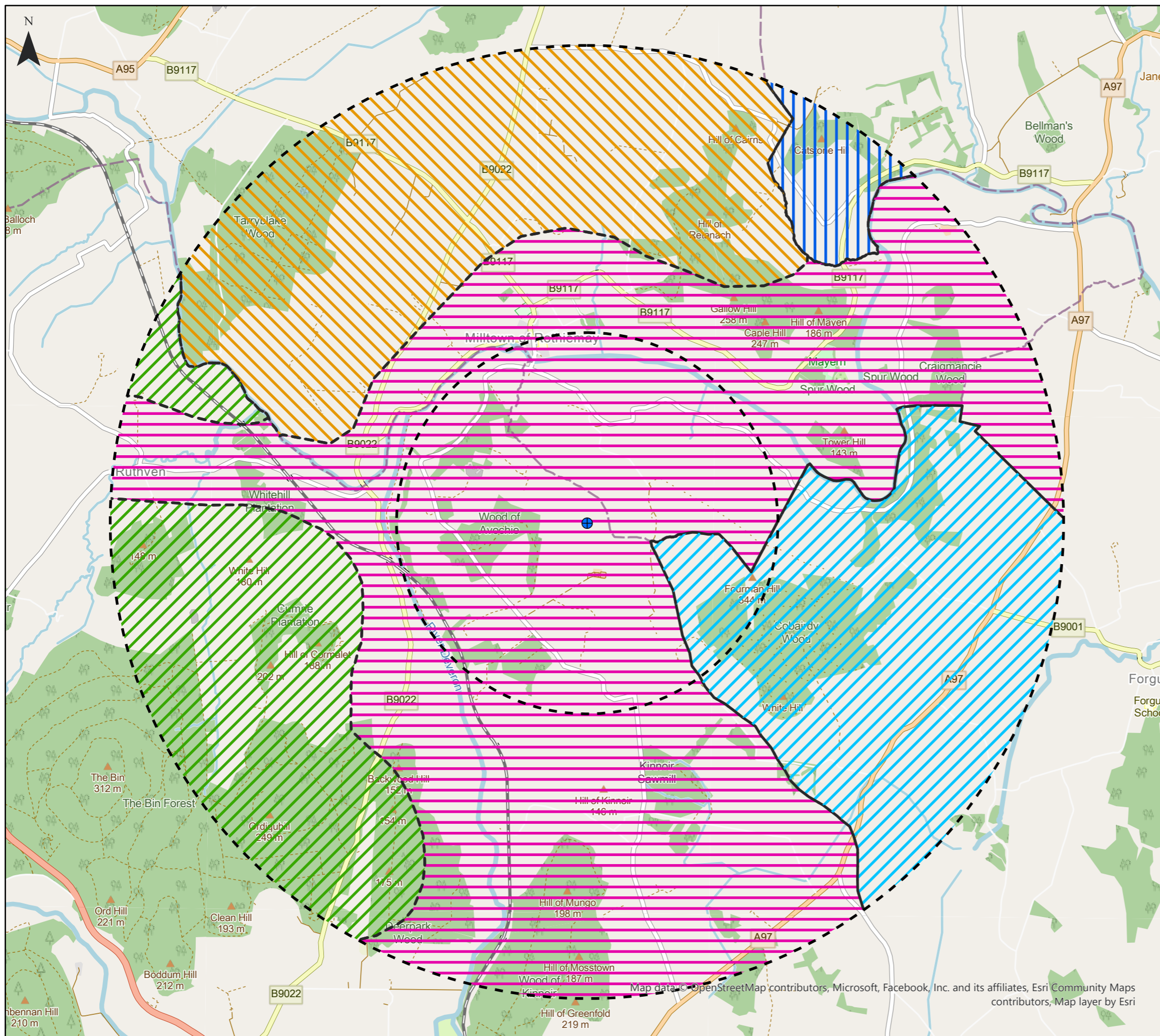
- 6.12. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 1.5km are considered **Low - Medium** with effects ranging between **Slight Adverse** depending on the openness of views and intervening screening by vegetation, topography or built structures.
- 6.13. Views beyond approximately 1.5km – 5km Further away the changes in the turbine model will become less apparent due to the undulating landscape and any screening provided by hedgerows, trees, and buildings within the intervening landscape. The longer blade length will result in some increased visibility of the upper blade tips above other elements in the intervening landscape but only from more distant receptors. The magnitude of visual change is considered **Negligible to Low** and the significance **Not Significant - Slight Adverse**.

7. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1A: FIGURES

- Figure 1.1 – Landscape Character Types
- Figure 1.2 – Landscape Designations
- Figure 1.3a – Tip Height ZTV 20km Study Area
- Figure 1.3b – Comparative ZTV with VPs
- Figure 1.4 – Tip Height ZTV 5km Study with VPs
- Figure 1.5a – Viewpoint 1
- Figure 1.5b – Viewpoint 1 PM
- Figure 1.6a – Viewpoint 2
- Figure 1.6b – Viewpoint 2 PM
- Figure 1.7a – Viewpoint 3
- Figure 1.7b – Viewpoint 3 PM
- Figure 1.8a – Viewpoint 4
- Figure 1.8b – Viewpoint 4 PM
- Figure 1.9a – Viewpoint 5
- Figure 1.9b – Viewpoint 5 PM
- Figure 1.10a – Viewpoint 6
- Figure 1.10b – Viewpoint 6 PM

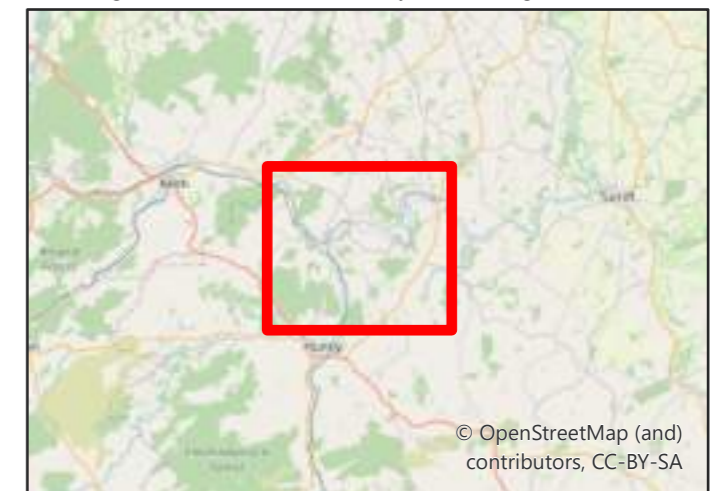
Riverstone Repowering Landscape Character Types Figure 1.1



Key

- Turbine Location
- 2km, 5km Study Area
- Farmed Moorland Edge LCT
- Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills LCT
- Farmed and Wooded River Valleys LCT
- Low Hills and Basins LCT
- Upland Farmland LCT

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



0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

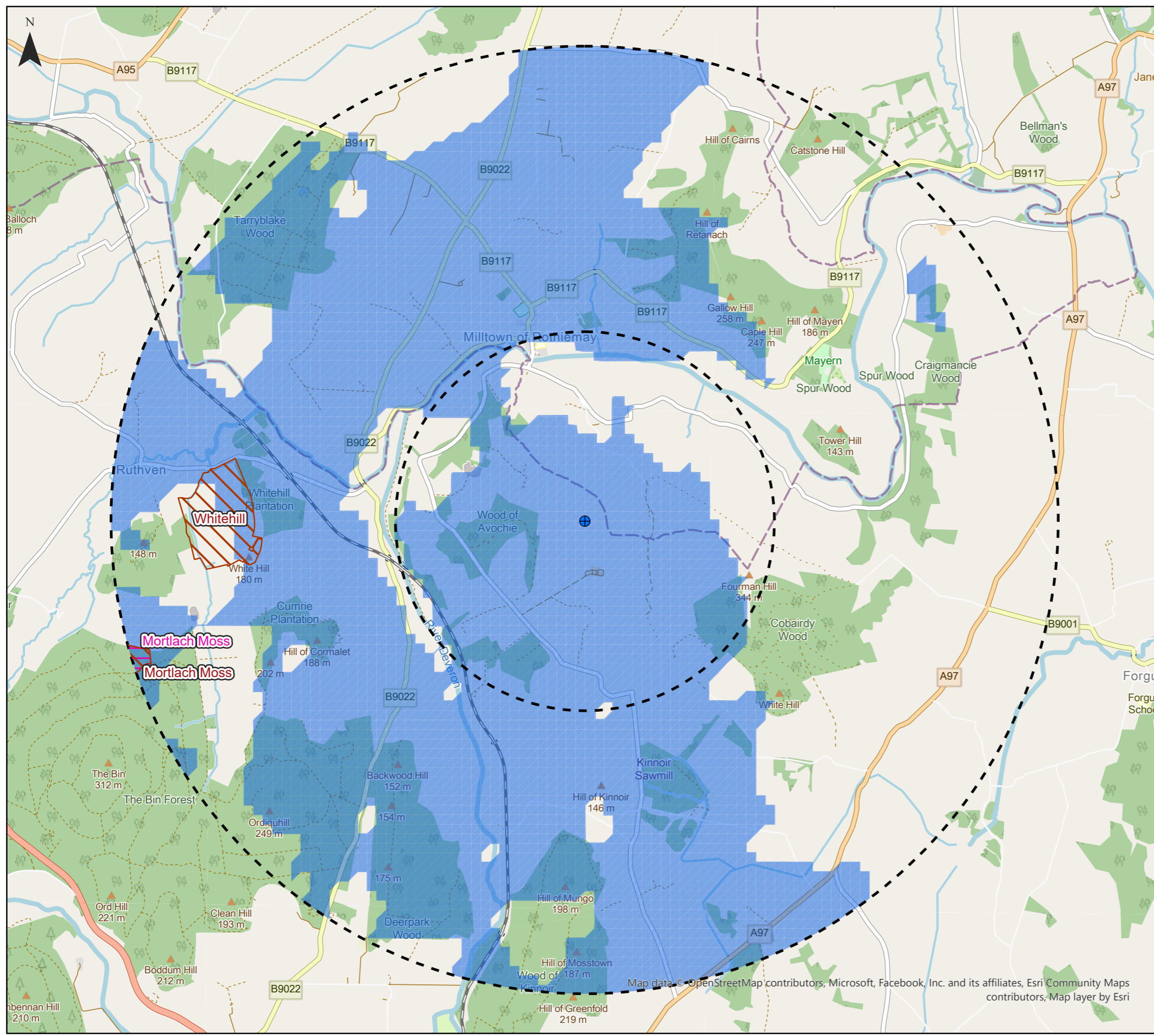
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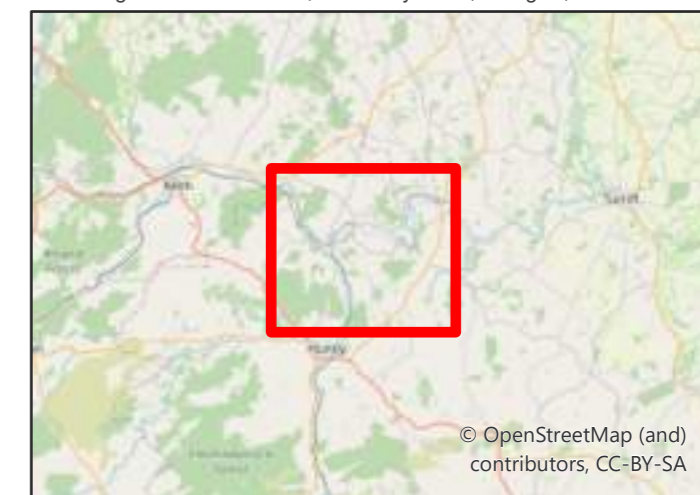
Riverstone Repowering Landscape Designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility Figure 1.2

Key

-  Turbine Location
-  2km, 5km Study Area
-  Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SPA)
-  Zone of Theoretical Visibility



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

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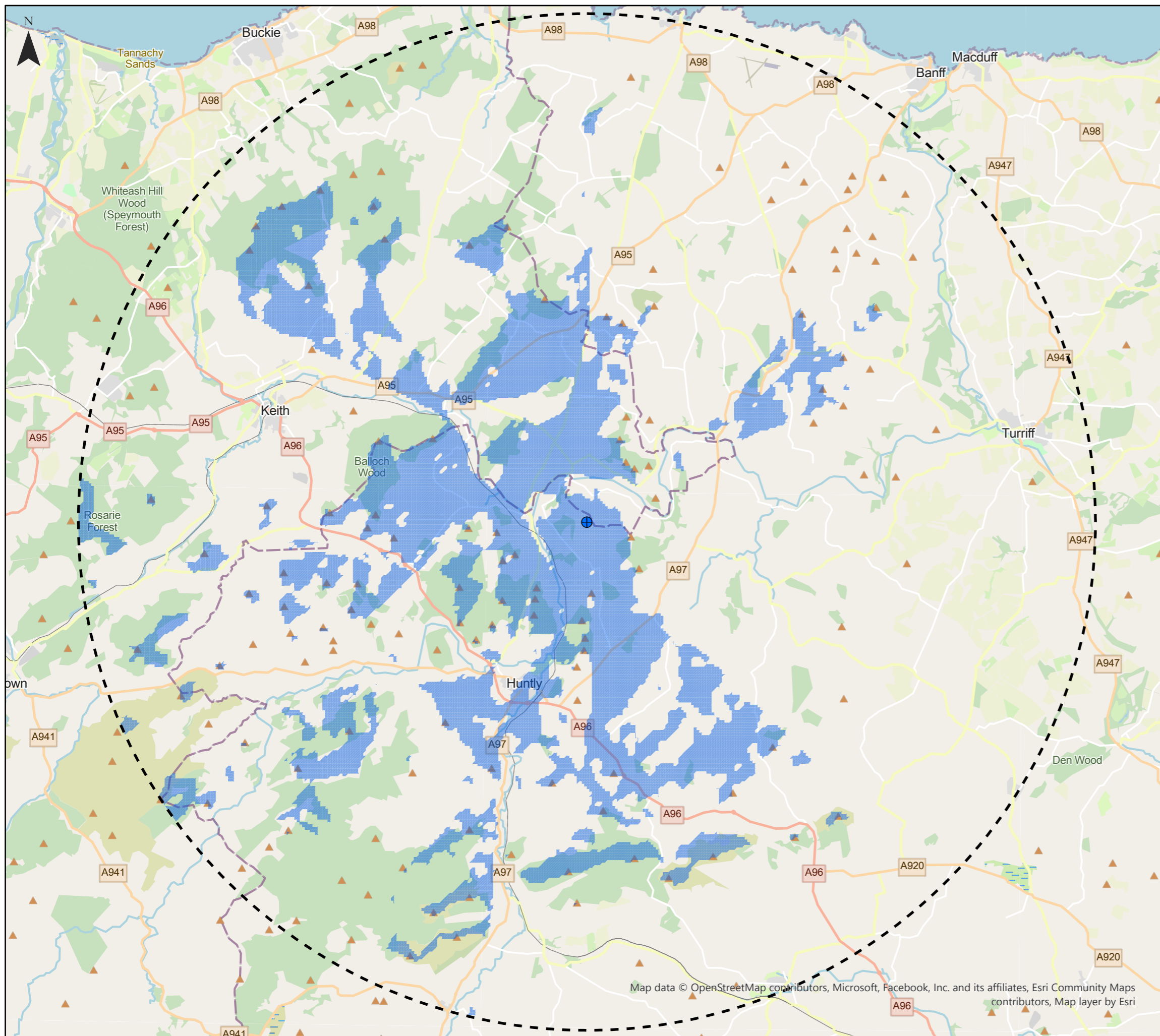
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Riverstone Repowering Zone of Theoretical Visibility Figure 1.3a

Key

-  Turbine Location
-  20km Study Area
-  Zone of Theoretical Visibility



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




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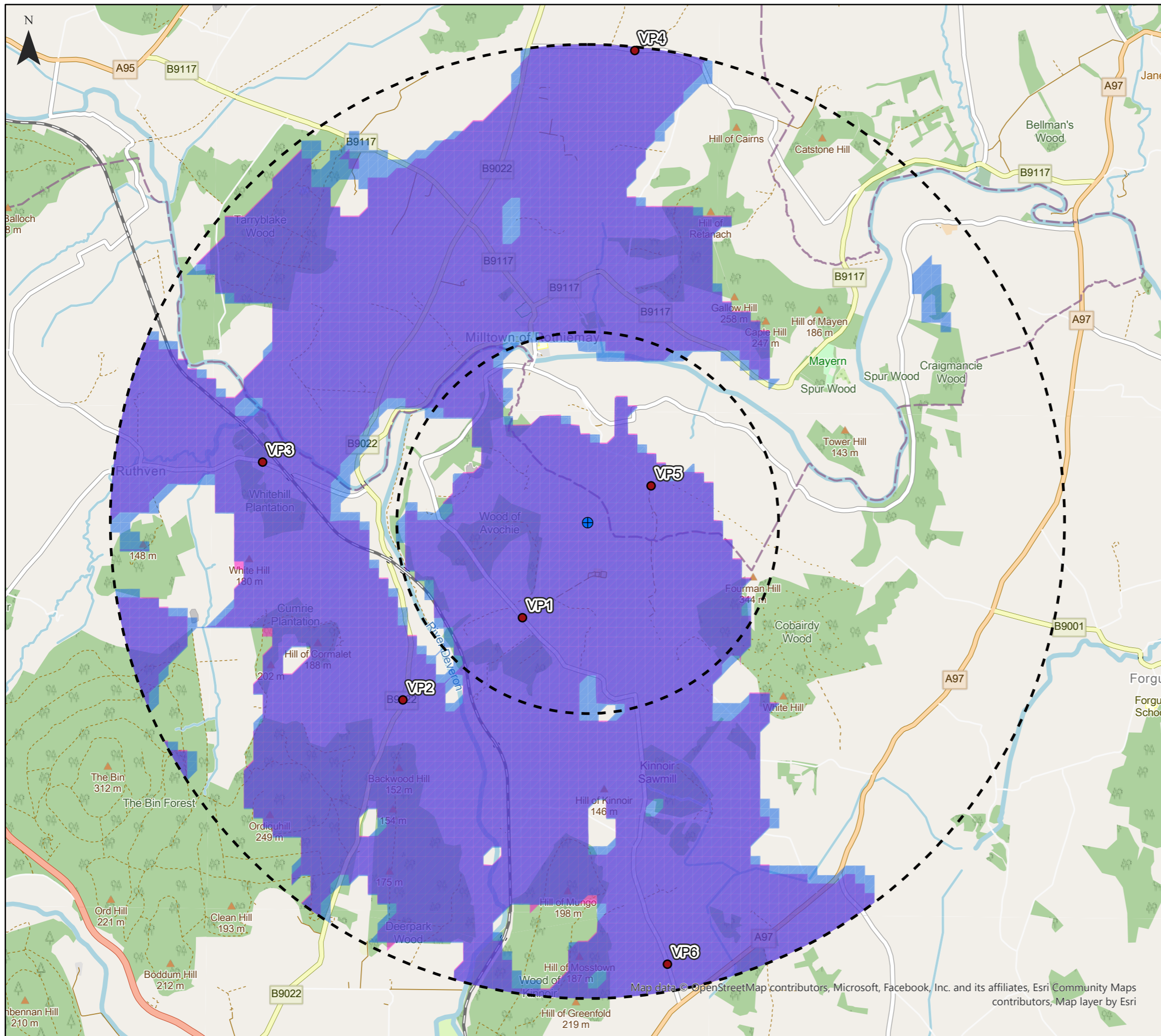
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Riverstone Repowering Comparative Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Viewpoint Locations Figure 1.3b

Key

-  Turbine Location
-  2km, 5km Study Area
-  Viewpoint Locations
-  Zone of Theoretical Visibility (New Turbine)
-  Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Old Turbine)
-  Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Combined)



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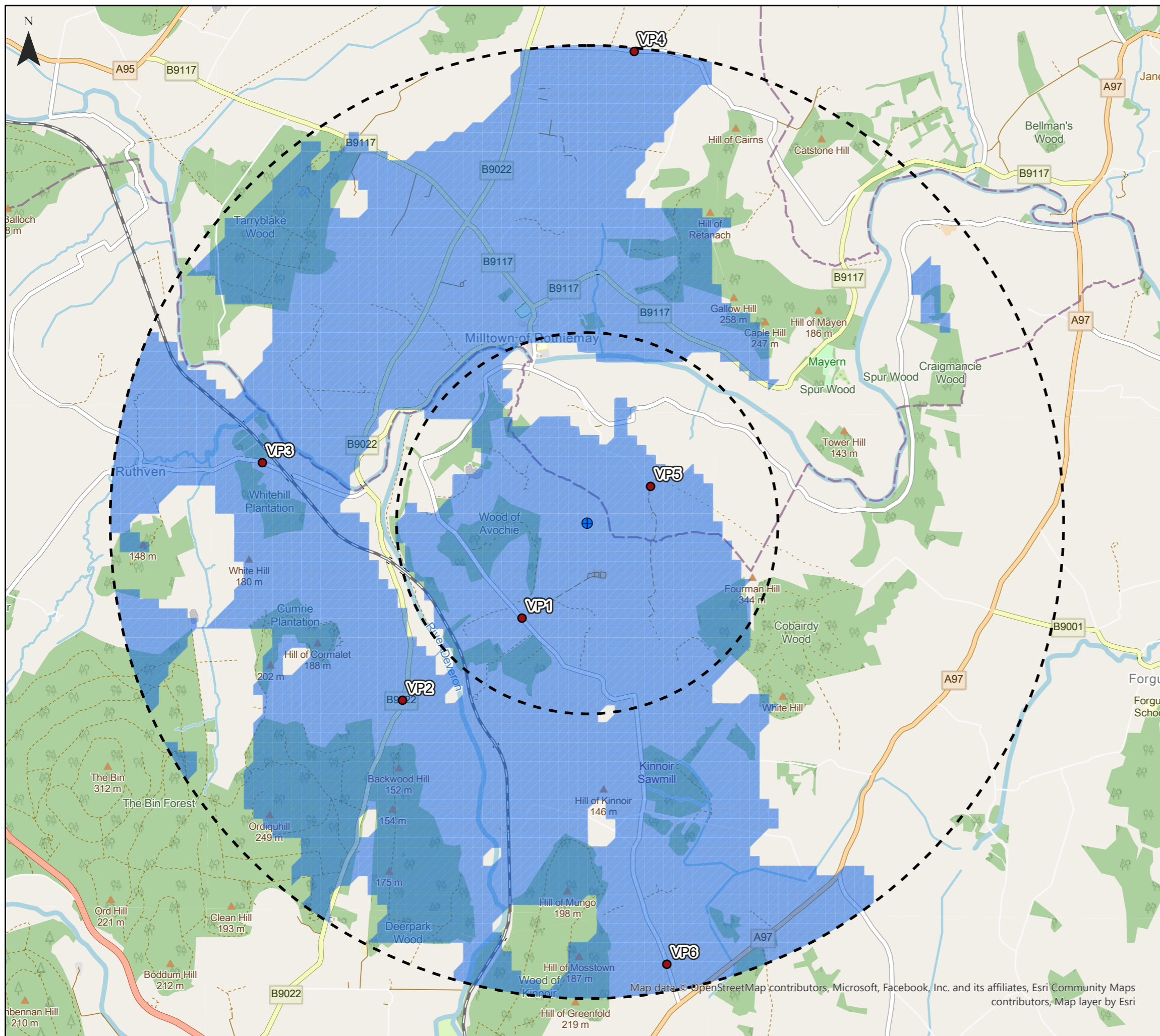
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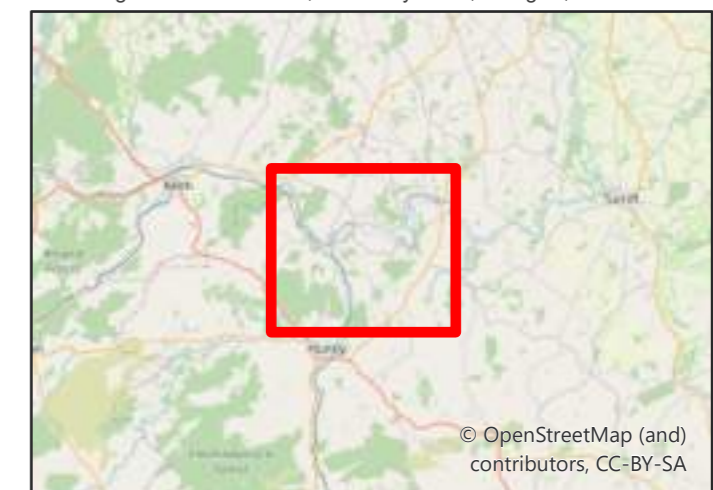
Riverstone Repowering Viewpoint Locations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility Figure 1.4

Key

-  Turbine Location
-  2km, 5km Study Area
-  Viewpoint Locations
-  Zone of Theoretical Visibility



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0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometers

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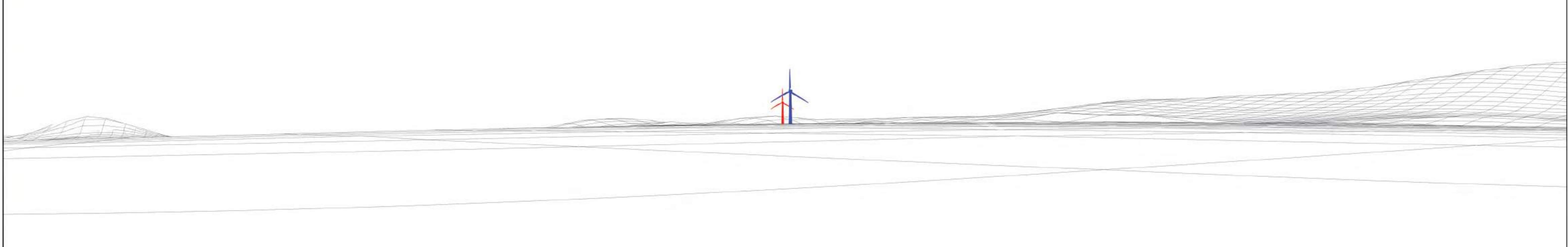


Figure 1.5a
Viewpoint 1: Ladysmith, Aberdeenshire
■ Proposed Turbine ■ Existing Turbine

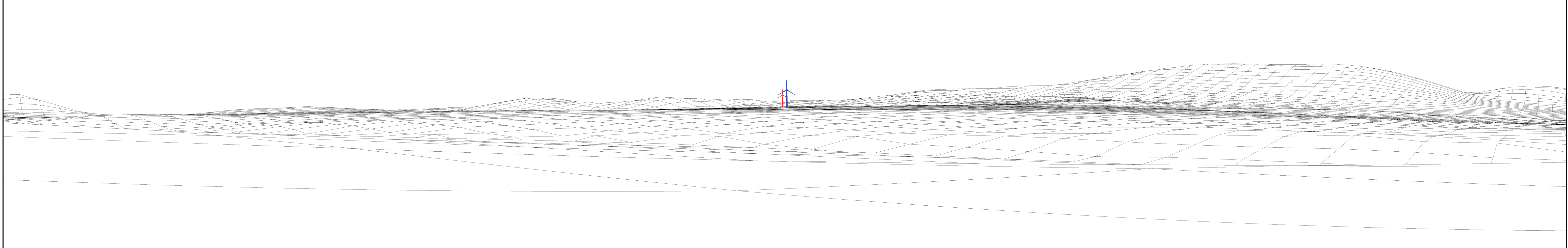



Figure 1.5b
Viewpoint 1: Ladysmith, Aberdeenshire

OS reference: 354670E 845377N
Eye Level: 137.5m AOD
Direction of view: 033°
Distance to Site: 1.210km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (planar projection)
Principal Distance: 812.5mm
Paper Size: 841 x 297mm (half A1)
Corrected printed image size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m
Date and Time: 15/11/2023




 Figure 1.6a
 Viewpoint 1: B9022, Robieston, Huntly, Aberdeenshire
 Proposed Turbine
 Existing Turbine

OS reference:	353417E 844515N	Horizontal field of view:	90° (planar projection)	Camera:	Canon 6D
Eye Level:	120.5m AOD	Principal Distance:	812.5mm	Lens:	50mm
Direction of view:	045°	Paper Size	841 x 297mm (half A1)	Camera Height:	1.5m
Distance to Site:	2.700km	Corrected printed image size	820 x 260mm	Date and Time:	15/11/2023

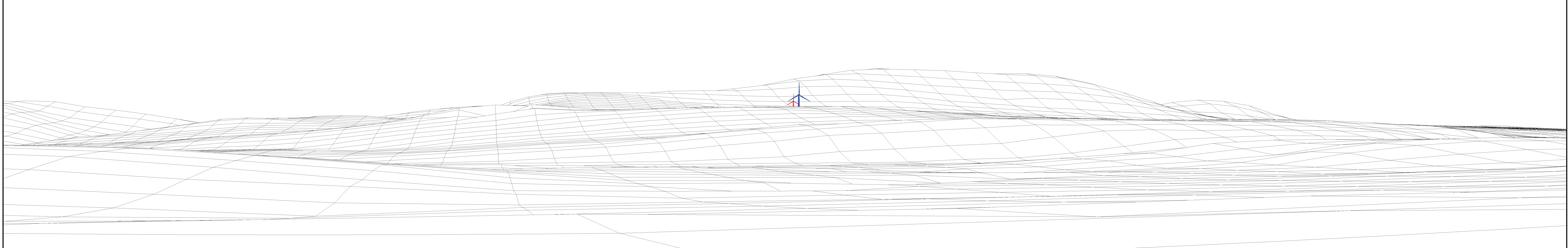


Figure 1.7a
Viewpoint 1: Crofthead, Ruthven, Aberdeenshire

Proposed Turbine
 Existing Turbine

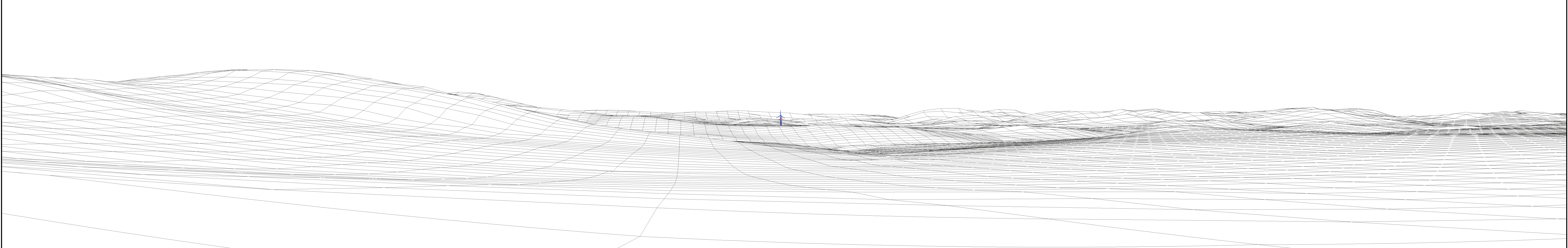



Figure 1.7b
Viewpoint 3: Crofthead, Ruthven, Aberdeenshire

OS reference: 351947E 847008N
 Eye Level: 101.5m AOD
 Direction of view: 100°
 Distance to Site: 3.450km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (planar projection)
 Principal Distance: 812.5mm
 Paper Size: 841 x 297mm (half A1)
 Corrected printed image size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon 6D
 Lens: 50mm
 Camera Height: 1.5m
 Date and Time: 15/11/2023




 Figure 1.8a
 Viewpoint 4: Moray
 Proposed Turbine
 Existing Turbine

OS reference:	355847E 851322N	Horizontal field of view:	90° (planar projection)	Camera:	Canon 6D
Eye Level:	162.5m AOD	Principal Distance:	812.5mm	Lens:	50mm
Direction of view:	185°	Paper Size	841 x 297mm (half A1)	Camera Height:	1.5m
Distance to Site:	4.960km	Corrected printed image size	820 x 260mm	Date and Time:	15/11/2023

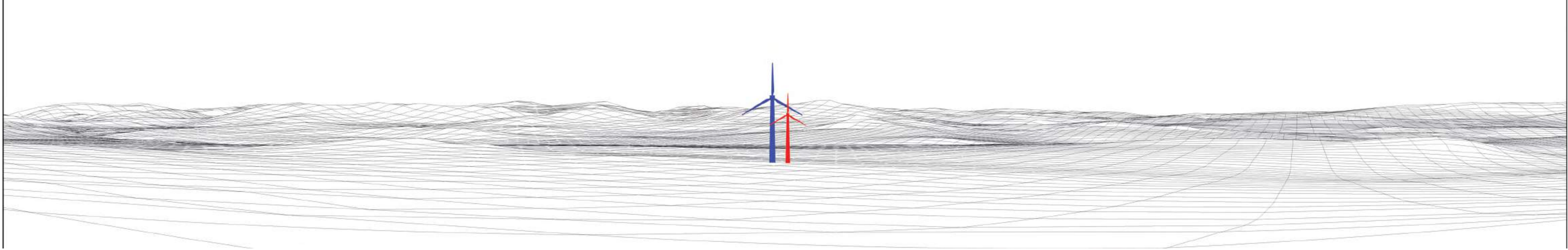



Figure 1.8b
Viewpoint 4: Moray

OS reference: 355847E 851322N
Eye Level: 162.5m AOD
Direction of view: 185°
Distance to Site: 4.960km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (planar projection)
Principal Distance: 812.5mm
Paper Size: 841 x 297mm (half A1)
Corrected printed image size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m
Date and Time: 15/11/2023




Figure 1.9a
 Viewpoint 5: Milltown of Rothiemay, Moray
■ Proposed Turbine ■ Existing Turbine

OS reference:	356018E 846759N	Horizontal field of view:	90° (planar projection)	Camera:	Canon 6D
Eye Level:	184.5m AOD	Principal Distance:	812.5mm	Lens:	50mm
Direction of view:	240°	Paper Size:	841 x 297mm (half A1)	Camera Height:	1.5m
Distance to Site:	0.760km	Corrected printed image size:	820 x 260mm	Date and Time:	15/11/2023



Figure 1.9b
Viewpoint 5: Milltown of Rothiemay, Moray

OS reference:	356018E 846759N	Horizontal field of view:	90° (planar projection)	Camera:	Canon 6D
Eye Level:	184.5m AOD	Principal Distance:	812.5mm	Lens:	50mm
Direction of view:	240°	Paper Size	841 x 297mm (half A1)	Camera Height:	1.5m
Distance to Site:	0.760km	Corrected printed image size	820 x 260mm	Date and Time:	15/11/2023

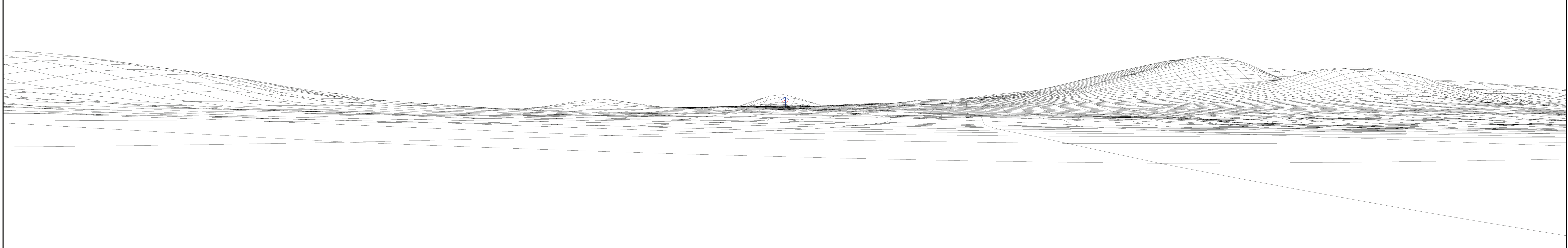


Figure 1.10a
Viewpoint 6: Ladysmith, Aberdeenshire

Proposed Turbine
 Existing Turbine

OS reference: 356189E 841745N
 Eye Level: 109.5m AOD
 Direction of view: 349°
 Distance to Site: 4.720km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (planar projection)
 Principal Distance: 812.5mm
 Paper Size: 841 x 297mm (half A1)
 Corrected printed image size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon 6D
 Lens: 50mm
 Camera Height: 1.5m
 Date and Time: 15/11/2023



Figure 1.10b
Viewpoint 6: Ladysmith, Aberdeenshire

OS reference: 356189E 841745N
Eye Level: 109.5m AOD
Direction of view: 349°
Distance to Site: 4.720km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (planar projection)
Principal Distance: 812.5mm
Paper Size: 841 x 297mm (half A1)
Corrected printed image size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m
Date and Time: 15/11/2023



Figure 1.6b
Viewpoint 2: B9022, Robieston, Huntly, Aberdeenshire

OS reference: 353417E 844515N
Eye Level: 120.5m AOD
Direction of view: 045°
Distance to Site: 2.700km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (planar projection)
Principal Distance: 812.5mm
Paper Size: 841 x 297mm (half A1)
Corrected printed image size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m
Date and Time: 15/11/2023



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