

APPENDIX A8.2

RESPONSE TO SNH COMMENTS ON THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT IN THE 2009 ES

VIKING WINDFARM ADDENDUM APPENDIX A8.2

AMENDMENTS TO 2009 ES CHAPTER 8 (LANDSCAPE CHARACTER) RESULTING FROM SNH POST-ES QUERIES

Erratum: three minor typographic/ graphic errors; It is inevitable that in a study of this magnitude one or two minor errors will occur and *these will now form an amendment to the published ES;*

D4(B) Peatland and Moorland Valleys of Veensgarth and Housetter – A review of this has shown that there is an error within the title and within the description of the receptor in Table 8.6.16. The title should read **D4(B) Peatland and Moorland Valleys of Fitch and Housetter**, the reference to Veensgarth is incorrect. The description of ‘*The extent of area potentially affected by the proposals*’ in table 8.6.16 incorrectly states that: “*Both the valleys would potentially be directly and indirectly affected by the proposed development as turbines are proposed along the Mid-Kame Ridge and immediately to the east and west.*” This description relates to landscape character area D4(a). The following table includes the correct title and description for this landscape character area. You will note that this error has not affect the assessment of impacts on this landscape character area, which remain Slight, as stated.

Table 8.6.16: D4 (B) – Peatland and Moorland Inland Valleys; Fitch and Housetter

Local Character Area	D4 (B)– Peatland and Moorland Inland Valleys; Fitch and Housetter
Extent within 15km of proposals	This area consists of two small valleys on the periphery of the detailed study area; Fitch and Housetter. Approximately 5km ² of this LCA lies within the 15km detailed study area.
Extent of area potentially affected by proposals	Both valleys would not be directly affected by the proposed development. However, a small proportion of the valleys would potentially be indirectly affected.
Relevant landscape characteristics	Key characteristics likely to be influenced by the proposals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale landscape with subtle colours and variations; and • extensive views along valleys towards the sea but with few significant features.
Scenic Quality Value	Medium
Sensitivity to change proposed	Sensitivity to change of the type proposed for this LCA is Low to Medium because of the open and large-scale character of the valleys and the main roads present within them.
Magnitude of changes	Indirect impacts from a distance upon some elevated parts of the valleys. Magnitude of change – Negligible to Low.
Impact Assessment	Slight and Indirect during construction and operation. (NOT SIGNIFICANT)

It should also be noted that the Figure 8.4 (Landscape Character Areas) featured in the ES at present is an earlier version which does not show the subdivision of Area D1 into D1(a) and D1(b) and Area D4 into D4(a) and D4(b), as is correctly shown in Fig. 8.6 (Sensitivity). We will therefore substitute this Figure with the correct and final version.

The revised figure is 8.4(REV.A)

Viewpoint 18 Firth/ Mossbank – This viewpoint (Grid ref. HU450750) was selected by SNH to be representative of views from the settlements of Firth and Mossbank. There was no view of the proposed development from this original viewpoint location and this is reflected by the assessment currently in the ES (i.e., Negligible Impact). However, the photograph was taken from an elevated position above the surrounding settlements (Grid Ref.HU 488749).and is not therefore representative of the view from the settlements. Thus although the assessment of the settlements (Receptor nos.130/131) remain negligible as stated, this viewpoint, at the revised location shown, we assess would receive slight adverse impacts, and therefore not significant, bearing in mind that the main focus of views from this point would be elevated views to the east over Mossbank and Yell Sound and that sensitivity of views westwards to the proposal are further reduced by foreground powerlines. A revised entry in the table follows;

Vp18	Mossbank HU 448 749	1	East facing elevated views over Mossbank and Yell Sound; powerlines in foreground	Low	Rear views	4km	31	Low- Medium	Low- Medium	Slight	Slight
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Despite the foregoing, it is considered that the errors highlighted are minor and more importantly, overall assessment conclusions remain all as stated in the ES.