



ESB Asset Development UK Limited

Millmoor Rig Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 3)

Appendix 6.4 – Assessment of Visual Receptors

663320



NOVEMBER 2022

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RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No.: 2481817
Title: Millmoor Rig Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 3)
Client: ESB Asset Development UK Limited
Date: 17th November 2022
Office: Glasgow
Status: Final

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Date:	<u>17/11/22</u>	Date:	<u>17/11/22</u>

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1 APPENDIX 6.4 - ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL RECEPTORS

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 An initial review has been undertaken to identify which representative viewpoints and visual receptors identified in the baseline (Section 6.5 of the LVIA Chapter) have the potential to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 The intention has been to ensure that the level of assessment given to each visual receptor is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The tables below list the principal visual receptors identified in the baseline study and summarises the initial assessment carried out to determine which visual receptors have the potential to experience significant effects and require detailed assessment.
- 1.1.3 The principal visual receptors are illustrated on Figures 6.3 and 6.4 overlaid with the blade tip ZTV.

2 REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINTS

Table 1 - Initial assessment of representative viewpoints

Viewpoint	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
1 - A6088, Chesters	3.3 km to the north	Potential for a significant effect due to the proximity of the viewpoint and the open foreground landscape allowing direct views across the rising landform towards the Proposed Development that will occupy a large proportion of the view.	Yes
2 - A6088, Southdean	2.2 km to the north northeast	Potential for a significant effect. The Proposed Development will be partly screened by the rolling landform to the southwest of the viewpoint, but the Proposed Development will occupy a large proportion of the view.	Yes
3 - Fort north-east of Southdean	2.6 km to the north northeast	Potential for significant effect due to the elevation of the viewpoint, with direct views across the lower lying valley landscape in proximity to the Proposed Development.	Yes
4 - A6088, Western approach to Chesters	3.4 km to the north	As per Viewpoint 1 above	Yes
5 - Bonchester Hill	5.1 km to the north northwest	Potential for a significant effect due to elevated viewpoint allowing direct views across the lower lying landscape towards the Proposed Development.	Yes
6 - B6357 Vantage Point	2.8 km to the southwest	Potential for a significant effect due to the proximity of the vantage point to the Proposed Development and the scale of change introduced.	Yes
7 - Footpath at Knox Knowe	3.4 km to the southeast	Potential for a significant effect with views extending down the landform towards the Proposed Development.	Yes
8 - A6088, north-west of Carter Bar	4.1 km to the northeast	Potential for a significant effect due to the availability of direct views across the low-lying intermediate landscape and forest plantations towards the Proposed Development.	Yes
9 - Carter Bar (eastern vantage point)	6.3 km to the east	Potential for a significant effect due to a combination of the importance of the view and the relative proximity to the Proposed Development.	Yes

Viewpoint	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
10 - Pike Fell	7.1 km to the west	Potential for significant effect due to the elevation of the viewpoint allowing direct views towards the Proposed Development	Yes
11 - Footpath and Minor Local Road, Chesters Brae	3.9 km to the northeast	Potential for a significant effect due to the proximity of the viewpoint and the open foreground landscape and the more elevated viewpoint, allowing direct views across the valley landscape towards the Proposed Development.	Yes
12 - Rubers Law	9.1 km to the northwest	Potential for significant effect due to the elevation of the viewpoint allowing direct views towards the Proposed Development	Yes
13 - A6088 Approach to Bonchester Bridge	7.9 km to the northwest	Potential for significant effects due to the relative proximity and the orientation of the road towards the Proposed Development	Yes
14 - Wolfelee Hill	2.4 km to the northwest	Potential for significant effects due to the elevation of the viewpoint allowing direct views towards the Proposed Development	Yes
15 - Pennine Way, Black Halls	15.8 km to the east northeast	Some effects may occur but to the distance from the Proposed Development and the broad panoramic views available and the small proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development, effects would not be considered significant.	No
16 - Five Stanes	15.5 km to the northeast	Some effects may occur but to the distance from the Proposed Development and the broad panoramic views available and the small proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development, effects would not be considered significant.	No
17 - A7 Approach to Hawick	13.7 km to the northwest	Limited effects may occur, with only blade tips visible. Coupled with the distance any effects would not be considered significant.	No
18 - Borders Abbey Way, Black Law	11 km to the north	Potential for significant effects due to the sensitivity of the receptors on this long-distance route and the elevation of the viewpoint allowing direct views towards the Proposed Development.	Yes
19 - Wheel Causeway	3.4 km to the south	Potential for significant effects to occur due to the proximity of the viewpoint and the large proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development.	Yes
20 - A68, north of hairpin past Carter Bar	5.8 km to the east northeast	Limited potential for effects to occur due to actual visibility being restricted by vegetation to the immediate west of the road.	No

Viewpoint	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
21 - Rowan Road, Jedburgh	13.8 km to the north northeast	Very limited potential for effects to occur due to the distance from the Proposed Development and the screening provided by the landform. Any views would be limited to blade tips only and effects would not be considered significant.	No

3 SCOTLAND'S GREAT TRAILS, CORE PATHS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Table 2 - Initial assessment of core paths and routes

Receptor	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Scotland's Great Trails			
Borders Abbeys Way	10.6 km to the north near Jedburgh	Theoretical visibility from sections of the route to the southwest of Jedburgh. Given the distance, the open nature of views to the south towards the Cheviot Hills that form the backdrop to the view there is potential for significant effects to occur.	Yes
	14.1 km to the northwest of Hawick	Theoretical visibility from a 3.7 km section of the route as it climbs towards Drinkstone Hill. Actual visibility is restricted by vegetation, particularly at the southern end of this section, with open views southeast towards the Proposed Development from higher elevations. Although there is potential for effects to occur, given the distance any effects would not be considered significant.	No
Romans and Reivers	14.8 km to the northwest near Hawick	Theoretical visibility from a 410 m section of the route near its eastern end near Hawick. The remainder of the route would experience no effects. Given the distance from the Proposed Development and the limited extent of visibility from the route, any effects would be minimal and would not be considered significant.	No
St Cuthberts Way	24.1 km to the north at Melrose	Theoretical visibility in Melrose. Actual visibility restricted by vegetation and the built form of the settlement. No potential for significant effects.	No
	15.8 km to the northeast near Jedburgh	Theoretical visibility from a 3.1 km section of the route. Actual visibility further restricted by surrounding vegetation. Given the distance from the Proposed Development and the limited extent of visibility from the route, any effects would be minimal and would not be considered significant.	No
The Southern Upland Way	28 km to the north near Melrose	Very limited theoretical northwest of Selkirk. Although there is potential for very limited effects to occur, given the distance any effects would not be considered significant.	No
Core Paths within 10 km			

Receptor	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Core path No. 116	Located approximately 6 km to the northwest near Bonchester Bridge	Progressively greater theoretical visibility as the route heads west from its junction with the B6357 and climbs out of the Rule Valley passing along the southern edge of Loan Plantation. Potential for significant effects, given the relative proximity to the Proposed Development and largely open views available to the southeast towards the Proposed Development.	Yes
Core path No. 203 and BR120	Located approximately 9.8 km to the northwest near Kirkton and White Hill	There is no theoretical visibility predicted from the majority of the route, except for approximately 1 km as the route passes around the southeastern foot of White Hill. Potential for significant effects over this section.	Yes
Core path 126	Located approximately 8.2 km to the west near Slitrig Water	No theoretical visibility from route. Therefore, no potential for any effects.	No
Aspirational Core Path	Located approximately 8 km to the west, near Slitrig Water	No theoretical visibility from route. Therefore, no potential for any effects.	No
Cycling Routes			
National Cycle Route 1	Located approximately 25 km to the north, near Melrose	Very limited theoretical visibility at considerable distance. No potential for significant effects.	No
National Cycle Route 10	Located 12 km to the south	No theoretical visibility from route. Therefore, no potential for any effects.	No
National Cycle Route 68	Located approximately 30 km to the southeast	No theoretical visibility from route. Therefore, no potential for any effects.	No
Border Loop	Located approximately 3.4 km to the north	Route passes along the A6088. There is predicated theoretical visibility between Bonchester Bridge and Chesters Brae. Given the relative proximity there is potential for significant effects to occur.	Yes

4 ROADS

Table 3 - Initial assessment of roads

Receptor	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
A Roads			
A68	Located approximately 5.8 km to the east at the closest point	Limited theoretical visibility to the north of Carter Bar. Given the relative proximity to the route there is potential for significant effects to occur over a limited section of the road.	Yes
A6088	Located approximately 2.3 km to the northeast	Theoretical visibility between Bonchester Bridge and Carter Bar. Given the proximity to the Proposed Development there is potential for significant effects to occur over a number of sections of the road.	Yes
B Roads			
B6399	Located approximately 7.8 km to the west	No theoretical visibility from route. Therefore, no potential for any effects.	No
B6357	Located approximately 1.5 km to the west	Limited theoretical visibility from short section of the route as it passes through Wauchope Forest and northeast of Bonchester Bridge	Yes
Scenic Routes			
Borders Historic Route	Located approximately 13 km to the northwest	Very limited theoretical visibility to the north of Hawick, with the majority of the route having no visibility. Given the distance from the site, any effects would be limited and would not be significant.	No