

## TECHNICAL APPENDIX 6.3: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

The sensitivity of the host landscape character type is assessed below. Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular form of change likely to result from the Proposed Development. Assessment text relates to sensitivity of the landscape receptor as a whole, to the Proposed Development, with additional comments regarding the Site where relevant. In the main this has been taken from the **2019 NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment**, the **Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (NatureScot)** and the **2016 Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Solar Energy in Angus** (quotes shown in italics) as well as from local sources and Site assessment. The table below is based on guidance provided within LI TGN 02/21 - specifically table 1 within that document. Sensitivity for the receiving (host) LCT only is provided within this Technical Appendix. Sensitivity for other assessed LCTs are provided within the main LVIA alongside the assessment of effects for that LCT.

### Host Landscape: NatureScot LCT 384: Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside / TAY 10 Broad Valley Lowland (Strathmore unit)

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Development	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Development	Explanation	Judgement
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	The southeastern border of the LCT overlaps with the Sidlaw Hills SLA within inner west and south of the study area.	Regional
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	<p>The area is characterised by “...<i>broad straths formed by glacial erosion, loosely enclosed by the foothills and massif to the north, and lower local hill ridges to the south.</i>”</p> <p>The LCT is home to “...<i>distinctive red soils and red building stone, contribute to a colourful mosaic of large fields and has evidence of the influence of large estates, particularly in terms of mature woodland and policies defined field boundaries and enclosed estate houses.</i>”</p>	Regional

Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	The LCT is a “...rich historic landscapes with features including standing stones, hillforts, Roman camps and medieval castles and tower houses.” Heritage assets near the site include the Glamis Castle (Garden and Designed Landscape) and St Orland’s Stone (Scheduled Monument).	Regional
Landscape condition/quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The LCT has been experiencing “...tree and hedge loss weakening landscape character.”	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	Baronial societies are associated with the Glamis Castle and grounds, with evidence of Pictish occupation throughout the area including the St Orland’s Stone SM.	Regional
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	The Strathmore unit is associated with Bronze and Iron age cultural activity with “...evidence of Roman presence and Medieval settlement in the 12th Century when groups of monks came to the area.”	Regional
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	There are a number of Core Paths within the Strathmore LCT, however there are no long distance routes.	Community
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	Though largely flat, “...the strath landscape is rich and textured and particularly colourful during spring and autumn.”	Regional

Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	The area is well settled, with “... <i>medieval market towns such as Coupar Angus</i> ” providing a central township to the broader study area where villages such as Campmuir and smaller hamlets are dispersed throughout an agricultural landscape.	Community
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	The Strathmore unit is a primarily agricultural area due to “... <i>the fertility of the soil, allied to favourable climatic conditions.</i> ” However, there is recreational connectivity to adjacent areas including the Sidlaw Hills area via core paths and other recreational routes.	Community
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Regional/ Community</b>

### Susceptibility

Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	The area consists of a large scale, low open valley, described as “... <i>much wider and deeper valleys than the scale of existing rivers might suggest.</i> ”	Medium
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	Within the study area, there is “... <i>complex local topography caused by glacial deposition, including outwash terraces, eskers and dry valleys.</i> ” Landform here is undulating, ranging from 28m – 377m AOD, with high ground located in the outer south and east of the study area.	Medium/Low
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	The area is ‘ <i>broad</i> ’ and ‘ <i>open</i> ’ with large tracts of agricultural land. Hedgerow and tree loss are contributing to the “... <i>increasing openness of landscape</i> ” in the area.	Medium
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover or simple patterns	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover or complex or irregular patterns	‘ <i>The rectilinear arable field pattern of this type increases capacity for solar PV development.</i> ’	Medium

	and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns		Landcover is mainly rotational crops with <i>'tree and woodland cover within Strathmore is limited, which reduces capacity, but with the extensive policies of the Glamis Castle designed landscape being the most notable exception.'</i>	
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<i>"The area appears as a very broad, flat-bottomed valley enclosed by the Highland Foothills to the north and the rising sweep of the Sidlaws' to the south." Patterns are typically rectilinear, defined by large farms and sheds, though where planting survives, "...the strath landscape is rich and textured and particularly colourful during spring and autumn."</i>	Medium/Low
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	The area is a <i>"...well-settled landscape with strong hierarchy of settlement types from large towns, to small villages, located within a well-populated agricultural landscape."</i> Additionally, <i>"Tall vertical structures are prominent in this landscape"</i> , with <i>"...views to pylon lines both within and on the adjacent foothills"</i>	Medium/Low
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	<i>"Wide, panoramic views across the breadth of the strath, running along and up to the enclosing hills."</i>	Medium
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<i>"In particular there are unrivalled views from Strathmore up to the foothills and uplands of the Grampian Mountains to the north."</i>	Medium
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium/Low</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity</b>				<b>Medium/Low</b>