

KIRKTON SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

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1 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1.1 Introduction

RPS has been commissioned by Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd to prepare a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) in support of its proposed solar photo voltaic (PV) and energy storage facility at Kirkton, Aberdeenshire (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development).

The purpose of this LVIA is to identify and assess the effects on landscape character, landscape features, visual receptors and visual amenity as a result of the works described in the Planning Support Statement and project description contained therein.

This assessment has been prepared and reviewed by chartered landscape architects at RPS.

1.2 Assessment Methodology

1.2.1 General Approach

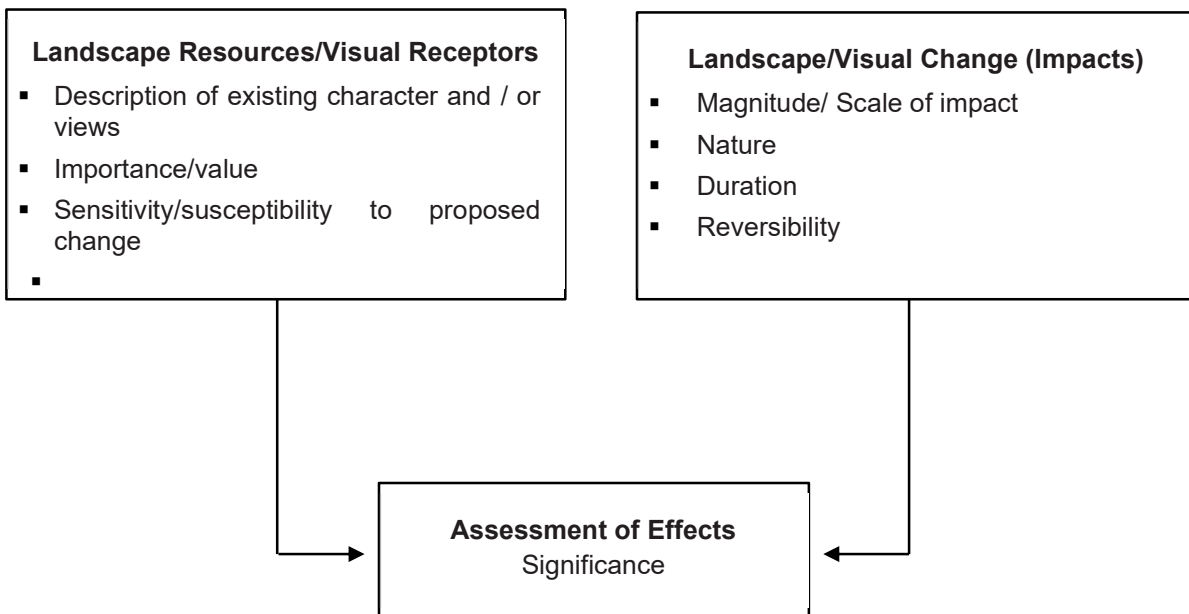
The methodology and approach to the assessment contained within this chapter has been carried out in accordance with best practice guidance described in the following documents;

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013) (GLVIA3);
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (The Landscape Institute, 2019).

GLVIA3 recommends that an LVIA ‘concentrates on principles and process’ and ‘does not provide a detailed or formulaic ‘recipe’ to assess effects, it being the ‘responsibility of the professional to ensure that the approach and methodology adopted are appropriate to the task in hand’ (preface to the third edition).

The effects on the landscape resources and visual receptors (people) have been assessed by considering the proposed change in the baseline conditions (the impact of the development) against the type of landscape resource or visual receptor (including the importance and sensitivity of that resource or receptor). These factors are determined through a combination of quantitative (objective) and qualitative (subjective) assessment using professional judgement. The assessment methodology is summarised in **Figure 1-1** below.

Figure 1-1: Assessment Methodology Summary



The LVIA considers the potential effects of the project upon:

- Individual landscape features and elements;
- Landscape character; and
- Visual amenity and the people who view the landscape.

1.2.2 Identification of Baseline Conditions

Baseline conditions has been identified and assessed through analysis of;

- Up to date digital copies of Ordnance Survey Discovery Series raster and OS vector maps;
- Aerial photography;
- Adopted Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP – April 2017);
- Draft Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021
- NatureScot Landscape Character Type Assessment;
- Historic Environment Scotland – Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes; and
- Drawings of the Proposed Development.

Site visits were undertaken in December 2020 to assess the existing environment, to establish the existing visual resource and to identify sensitive receptors, i.e. residential properties, scenic viewpoints. These site visits were also used to consider the potential effects on landscape character and visual impacts arising as a result of the Proposed Development.

1.2.3 Identifying Effects

Assessing the significance of an effect is a key component of the LVIA and is an evidence based process combining professional judgment on the nature of a landscape or visual receptor's sensitivity, their susceptibility or ability to accommodate change and the value attached to the receptor. It is important to note that judgments in this LVIA are impartial and based on professional experience and opinion informed by best practice guidance.

The effects of a proposed development are considered to be of variable duration and are assessed as being of either short-term, medium-term or long-term duration, and permanent or reversible. Effects are considered to be long-term during the operational phase of the development, whilst operations and infrastructure works apparent during the construction and initial operating period are considered to be temporary, short-term effects.

The reversibility of an effect is also variable. The effects on the landscape and visual resource that occurs during the construction period such as the use of construction machinery are considered to be reversible.

Where effects arise during the construction period, these are most likely to be as a result of: movement of construction machinery within the landscape; construction of new structures and construction activities within the site boundary all of which are considered to be short term in duration.

To avoid repetition, the duration and reversibility of effects are not reiterated throughout the assessment.

1.2.4 Study Area

Using terrain-modelling techniques combined with the Proposed Development specification a map was created which identified areas from which the Proposed Development may theoretically be visible (refer Appendix A; Figure 4.0). This Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is the area within which views of the Proposed Development can theoretically be obtained, determined by the topography of the area only and is representative of a theoretical worst case scenario in line with current guidance.

The ZTV forms the basis for the study area associated with the Proposed Development for both landscape and visual impact assessment. It is noted that the ZTV does not take into account local features such as; roadside hedgerows, field boundary hedgerows, woodland planting, coniferous forestry or buildings. In

practise the actual visibility of the Proposed Development is considerably less in extent than the theoretical one, since individual elements of the proposal are difficult to focus on at long distances and localised changes in topography, hedges, trees and woodland tend to restrict views.

The ZTV was assessed against the elements of the Proposed Development, the footprint of the Proposed Development, the receiving landscape and perceptibility of elements of the Proposed Development particularly when viewed against surrounding topographical changes and vegetation cover. Survey and assessment established that vertical elements associated with the Proposed Development are not easily perceived within the wider landscape due to intervening topographical changes and vegetation cover.

1.2.5 Assessment Criteria

The objective of the assessment process is to identify and evaluate the predicted significant effects arising from a proposed development. Significance is a function of the:

- Sensitivity of the affected landscape or visual receptors, determined through consideration of the susceptibility of the receptor to the type of change arising from the specific proposals and the value attached to the receptor; and
- Secondly its Scale or Magnitude, derived from a consideration of the size/ scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility of the proposed development.

These definitions recognise that landscapes vary in their capacity to accommodate different forms of development according to the nature of the receiving landscape and the type of change being proposed.

As with any new development, it is acknowledged that, the introduction of a proposed development into the existing landscape or visual context could cause either a deterioration, improvement or neutral impact on the existing landscape or visual resource.

1.2.6 Landscape Impact Assessment

The LVIA firstly assesses how the Proposed Development would impact directly on any landscape features and resources. This category of effect relates to specific landscape elements and features (e.g. woods, trees, walls, hedgerows, watercourses) that are components of the landscape that may be physically affected by the proposed development, such as the removal or addition of trees and alteration to ground cover.

The LVIA then considers impacts on landscape character at two levels. Firstly, consideration is given to how the landscape character is affected by the removal or alteration of existing features and the introduction of new features. This is considered to be a direct impact on landscape character.

Secondly, the indirect impacts of the Proposed Development on the wider landscape are considered. The assessment of impacts on the wider landscape is discussed using the surrounding character areas identified in the relevant landscape character assessments. It is acknowledged there is an overlap between perception of change to landscape character and visual amenity, but it should be remembered that landscape character in its own right is generally derived from the combination and pattern of landscape elements within the view.

The significance of effects on landscape features and character is determined by considering both the sensitivity of the feature or landscape character and the magnitude of impact.

Consideration of the sensitivity of the landscape resource against the magnitude of impact caused by the Proposed Development is fundamental to landscape and visual assessment and these two criteria are defined in more detail below.

1.2.7 Landscape Sensitivity

The determination of the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is based upon an evaluation of the elements or characteristics of the landscape likely to be affected. The evaluation reflects such factors as its quality, value, contribution to landscape character and the degree to which the particular element or characteristic can be replaced or substituted.

GLVIA 3 at paragraph 5.39 states that *'landscape receptors need to be assessed firstly in terms of their sensitivity, combining judgments of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape.'*

Susceptibility is defined by GLVIA 3 at paragraph 5.40 as ‘the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/ condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/ or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without due consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies’.

The value of a landscape receptor is determined with reference to the presence of relevant landscape designations, such Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and their level of importance. For the purpose of this assessment, landscape value is categorised as:

- Very High: Areas of landscape acknowledged through designation such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or other landscape based sensitive areas. These are of landscape significance within the wider region or nationally;
- High: Areas that have a very strong positive character with valued and consistent distinctive features that gives the landscape unity, richness and harmony. These are of landscape significance within the district;
- Medium: Areas that exhibit positive character but which may have evidence of alteration/degradation or erosion of features resulting in a less distinctive landscape. These may be of some local landscape significance with some positive recognisable structure; and
- Low: Areas that are generally negative in character, degraded and in poor condition. No distinctive positive characteristics and with little or no structure. Scope for positive enhancement.

As previously discussed, landscape sensitivity is influenced by a number of factors including susceptibility to change, value and condition. In order to assist with bringing these factors together judgements regarding susceptibility and value have been used which define the landscape resource as being either, negligible, low, medium, high or very high. **Table 1.1** defines the criteria that have guided the judgement as to the overall sensitivity of the Landscape Resource.

Assessments of susceptibility and value of a particular landscape resource may be different and professional judgement will always be used to conclude on the judgement of sensitivity. For example, value may be high and susceptibility may be low, and a professional judgement will be made to determine whether sensitivity is high, low or in between, supported by narrative explanation.

Table 1.1: Landscape Sensitivity

Definition		Sensitivity
Landscape resource susceptibility	Landscape resource value	
Exceptional landscape quality, no or limited potential for substitution. Key elements / features well known to the wider public. Little or no tolerance to change	Nationally / internationally designated/ valued landscape, or key elements or features of national/ internationally designated landscapes. Little or no tolerance to change	Very High
Strong/ distinctive landscape character; absence of landscape detractors. Low tolerance to change.	Regionally/ nationally designated/ valued countryside and landscape features. Low tolerance to change.	High
Some distinctive landscape characteristics; few landscape detractors. Medium tolerance to change.	Locally/ regionally designated/ valued countryside and landscape features. Medium tolerance to change.	Medium

Definition		Sensitivity
Landscape resource susceptibility	Landscape resource value	
Absence of distinctive landscape characteristics; presence of landscape detractors. High tolerance to change	Undesignated countryside and landscape features. High tolerance to change	Low
Absence of positive landscape characteristics. Significant presence of landscape detractors. High tolerance to change	Undesignated countryside and landscape features. High tolerance to change	Negligible

1.2.8 Magnitude of Landscape Effect

The effect on landscape receptors and the overall judgement of the magnitude of landscape effect is based on combining judgements on ‘size or scale, the geographic extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility’ (GLVIA3, paragraph 5.48),

Direct resource changes on the landscape character in the study area are brought about by the introduction of the Proposed Development and its impact on the key landscape characteristics. Judgements regarding the magnitude of landscape impact are indicated in **Table 1.2** below.

Table 1.2: Magnitude of Landscape Impact

Definition	Magnitude of Impact
Total loss or addition or/ very substantial loss or addition of key elements / features / patterns of the baseline, i.e., pre-development landscape and/ or introduction of dominant, uncharacteristic elements with the attributes of the receiving landscape	Large
Partial loss or addition of or moderate alteration to one or more key elements / features / patterns of the baseline, i.e., pre-development landscape and / or introduction of elements that may be prominent, but may not necessarily be substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Medium
Minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements / features / patterns of the baseline, i.e., pre-development landscape and or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape.	Small
Very minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements / features / patterns of the baseline, i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape approximating to a 'no-change' situation.	Negligible
No loss, alteration or addition to the receiving landscape resource	No change

1.2.9 Visual Impact Assessment

As outlined in GLVIA 3 (Paragraph 6.1) ‘An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity’. The assessment of effects on views is an assessment of how the introduction of a proposed development will affect views within the study area. The Assessment of visual effects therefore needs to consider:

- Direct impacts of a proposed development upon views of the landscape through intrusion or obstruction;
- The reaction of viewers who may be affected, e. g. residents, walkers, road users; and
- The overall impact on visual amenity.

1.2.10 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

For visual receptors, judgements of susceptibility and value are closely interlinked. For example the most valued views are likely to be those which people go and visit because of the available view. The value attributed to visual receptors also relates to the value of the view – for example a National Trail is nationally valued for its access, not necessarily for its views.

Paragraph 6.32 of the GLVIA refers to the susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and states that susceptibility is mainly a function of “the occupation or activity of different people experiencing the view at particular locations” and “the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.”

Other factors affecting visual sensitivity include:

- The location and context of the viewpoint;
- The expectations and occupation or activity of the receptor; and
- The importance of the view.

Judgements on the overall visual sensitivity/ susceptibility are provided in **Table 1.3** below and overall sensitivity of the visual resource is based on combining judgements on the sensitivity of the human receptor (for example resident, commuter, tourist, walker, recreationist or worker, and the numbers of viewers affected) and judgements on the visual resource value (for example views experienced from residential properties, workplace, leisure venue, local beauty spot, scenic viewpoint, commuter route, tourist route or walkers’ route).

Table 1.3: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Definition	Sensitivity
Visual Receptor Sensitivity	
Observers, drawn to a particular view, including those who have travelled to experience the views. Little or no tolerance to change	Very High
Observers enjoying the countryside from their homes or pursuing quiet outdoor recreation are more sensitive to visual change. Little tolerance to change	High
Observers enjoying the countryside from vehicles on quiet/ promoted routes are moderately sensitive to visual change. Medium tolerance to change	Medium
Observers in vehicles or people involved in frequent or infrequent repeated activities are less sensitive to visual change. High tolerance to change	Low
Observers in vehicles or people involved in frequent or frequently repeated activities are less sensitive to visual change. High tolerance to change	Negligible

1.2.11 Magnitude of Visual Effects

The magnitude of impact on the visual resource results from the scale of change in the view, with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view, and changes in the view composition. Important factors to be considered include: proportion of the view occupied by the Proposed Development, distance and duration of the view. Other vertical features in the landscape and the backdrop to the proposed development will all influence resource change. Judgements regarding the magnitude of visual impact are provided in **Table 1.4** below.

Table 1.4: Magnitude of Visual Impact

Definition	Magnitude
Complete or very substantial change in view dominant involving complete or very substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of baseline, e.g., through removal of key elements	Large
Moderate change in view: which may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of baseline, i.e., pre-development view through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Change may be prominent, but would not substantially alter scale and character of the surroundings and the wider setting. Composition of the view would alter. View character may be partially changed through the introduction of features which, though uncharacteristic, may not necessarily be visually discordant	Medium
Minor change in baseline, i.e. pre-development view - change would be distinguishable from the surroundings whilst composition and character would be similar to the pre change circumstances.	Small
Very slight change in baseline, i.e. pre-development view - change barely distinguishable from the surroundings. Composition and character of view substantially unaltered.	Negligible
No alteration to the existing view	No change

1.2.12 Significance of Effects

The purpose of this LVIA is to determine, in a transparent way, the likely significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. It is accepted that, due to the nature and scale of development, the Proposed Development could potentially give rise to some notable landscape and visual effects.

GLVIA3 identifies that ‘..... a final judgment is made about whether or not each effect is likely to be significant. There are no hard and fast rules about what effects should be deemed ‘significant’ but LVIAs should always distinguish clearly between what are considered to be significant and non-significant effects’.

Significance can only be defined in relation to each particular development and its specific location. The relationship between receptors and effects is not typically a linear one. It is for each LVIA to determine how judgements about receptors and effects should be combined to derive significance and to explain how this conclusion has been arrived at.

The identification of significant effects would not necessarily mean that the effect is unacceptable in planning terms. What is important is that the likely effects on the landscape and visibility are transparently assessed and understood in order that the determining authority can bring a balanced, well-informed judgement to bear when making the planning decision.

The significance of effects on landscape, views and visual amenity have been judged according to a six-point scale: Substantial, Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible or None as presented in **Table 1.5** below, which contains a description of the significance of effect criteria.

Table 1.5: Significance of Effect Criteria

Significance of Effect	Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
None	Where the project would not alter the landscape character of the area.	Where the project would retain existing views.
Negligible	Where proposed changes would have an indiscernible effect on the character of an area.	Where proposed changes would have a barely noticeable effect on views/visual amenity.
Minor	Where proposed changes would be at slight variance with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views, although discernible, would only be at slight variance with the existing view.

Significance of Effect	Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
Moderate	Where proposed changes would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the existing view.
Major	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued aspect of (or a high quality) landscape.	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued view or a view of high scenic quality.
Substantial	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a landscape of exceptional landscape quality (e.g., internationally designated landscapes), or key elements known to the wider public of nationally designated landscapes (where there is no or limited potential for substitution nationally).	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a view of remarkable scenic quality, within internationally designated landscapes or key features or elements of nationally designated landscapes that are well known to the wider public.

For the purposes of this assessment those effects indicated, in **Table 1.6** below, as being Substantial or Major to Substantial are regarded as being significant. Effects of 'Minor to Moderate' and lesser significance have been identified within the assessment, though are not considered significant. For those effects indicated as being of 'Moderate' or 'Moderate to Major' the assessor has exercise professional judgement in determining if the effect is considered to be significant, taking account of site specific or location specific variables which are given different weighting in each instance according to location.

Table 1.6: Significance of effects matrix

Magnitude of Impact	Sensitivity				
	Negligible	Low	Medium	High	Very High
No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor	Minor	Minor
Small	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor	Minor	Minor to Moderate	Moderate to Major
Medium	Negligible to Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate to Major	Major to Substantial
Large	Minor	Minor to Moderate	Moderate to Major	Major to Substantial	Substantial

A conclusion that an effect is 'significant' should not be taken to imply that the Proposed Development is unacceptable. Significance of effect needs to be considered with regard to the scale over which it is experienced and whether it is beneficial or adverse.

1.2.13 Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

The methodology for Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts (CLVIA) has been based on Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013) (GLVIA3).

The purpose of the CLVIA is to consider the landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development when viewed in context with other development within the study area.

Cumulative effects consist of direct effects on the physical landscape and the character of the site containing the development, and indirect, perceived effects on the landscape character of areas within the study area from which the developments would be visible. GLVIA3 identifies effects as follows:

- **cumulative effects** as *'the additional changes caused by a Proposed Development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together'* (SNH, 2012:4);
- **cumulative landscape effects** as effects that *'can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the landscape, or any special value attached to it'* (SNH, 2012:10);
- **cumulative visual effects** as effects that can be caused by combined visibility, which *'occurs when the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint'* and/or sequential effects which *'occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments'* (SNH, 2012:11).

The significance of any identified cumulative landscape and visual effect has been assessed and has been based on the same combination of receptor sensitivity and predicted magnitude of impact described previously in order to identify the significance of cumulative effect.

1.2.14 Cumulative Baseline

The CLVIA, in line with GLVIA 3, considers the additional landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development in combination with other consented developments and proposed developments that are the subject of a valid planning application but have yet to be determined (GLVIA 3, Paragraph 7.13), which may give rise to cumulative landscape and visual effects. Other developments (refer to Table 1.7 Error! Reference source not found.) have been identified from a Planning Application search through the Planning Northern Ireland portal and include those which have either been granted planning approval, or are currently under consideration by the relevant Planning Authority.

A review of proposed developments has been undertaken to determine the likelihood for potential significant cumulative landscape and visual effects, taking consideration of the following criteria:

- Type and extent of identified proposal;
- The distance between the identified proposal and the Proposed Development;
- Likely visual influence of the identified proposal;
- Potential inter-visibility between the identified proposal and the Proposed Development;
- Potential for cumulative landscape effects on the physical fabric of the landscape or its scenic qualities and
- The potential for combined, successive and sequential visual effects in the context of the Proposed Development.

Table 1.7 below provides details of other identified developments considered within the CLVIA that lie within close proximity to the Proposed Development Site and that have been judged have the potential to give rise to cumulative landscape and/ or visual effects. Other proposed developments had been identified during the planning search, however, they have not been included or assessed as part of the CLVIA as the potential for significant cumulative visual or landscape impacts are restricted by intervening topographical changes which limits interaction.

Table 1.7: Cumulative Developments Considered

Application Nr.	Application Address	Development	Status	Approx. Distance from Proposed Development	Potential for cumulative landscape and/ or visual effect
APP/2018/1416	South Kirkton St Fergus Aberdeenshire AB42 3EL	Alterations and Extensions to Dwelling house and Erection of Car Port	Approved July 2018	Adjacent to Site Boundary within the southern portion of the Development Site	Potential cumulative landscape impacts and inter-visibility between developments.

Application Nr.	Application Address	Development	Status	Approx. Distance from Proposed Development	Potential for cumulative landscape and/or visual effect
					Carried forward into cumulative assessment
ENQ/2020/0931	St Fergus Gas Terminal St Fergus Aberdeenshire AB42 3EP	Construction and Operation of a Carbon Capture, Compression & Conditioning Plant with Associated Infrastructure and CO2 Export Pipeline Connection	Within Appeal Process	1.4km north	Potential cumulative landscape impacts and inter-visibility between developments. Carried forward into cumulative assessment

1.3 Receiving Environment

1.3.1 General Overview

The Proposed Development is located on a portion of land within the Aberdeenshire Council Area due east of the A90 and approximately 1.2km southeast of St.Fergus Village and 2.1km northwest of Peterhead (refer Appendix A; Figure 1.0).

The Proposed Development site is located on land to the east of the A90 and comprised of a series of improved and semi-improved pastoral fields within an area of lower elevation land adjacent to the northeast coastline of Aberdeenshire. Southern and portions of the northern boundaries of the site are well defined and contained by mixed broadleaved and coniferous shelterbelt planting. Internal field boundaries are well defined by post and wire fences with scattered shrub and ruderal vegetation associated with drainage ditches, whilst access tracks are partially screened by mixed shrub and scrub planting. Further areas of coniferous shelterbelt planting located within the study area, to the immediate west, increase the sense of enclosure and accentuate the undulating topography by following more elevated portions of land, whilst roadside vegetation adjacent to the A90 add variety and interest within the landscape.

Views of the Proposed Development site, from northern and southern portions of the study area are generally well screened by intervening coniferous shelterbelt planting, with roadside vegetation adjacent to the A90 further restricting views. Remaining visibility is generally limited to a short section of the A90 to the immediate west of the site, where views are influenced by the undulating topography and the horizontal and vertical road alignment combined with intervening scrub and shrub planting adjacent to access roads and field boundaries. Views of the North Sea are limited in extent by the undulating nature of the dune systems adjacent to the coast, such that views of the north sea are not apparent from the A90. Stacks associated with the St Fergus Gas Terminal, operational wind turbines at Bruxiehill and and tall pylons carrying overhead lines form strong visual draws in views from within the study area, locally influencing the character of the landscape.

1.3.2 NatureScot Landscape Character Type

A review of the National Landscape Character Type Assessment completed by NatureScot, has identified that the Proposed Development is wholly located within the Landscape Character Type (LCT), identified as Beaches, Dunes and Links - Aberdeenshire (LCT 12) (refer Appendix A; Figure 2.0).

Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire (LCT 12)

A review of the accompanying information, provided by NatureScot, has identified that this LCT ‘*extends from Fraserburgh to Peterhead, and from Collieston to Aberdeen on the eastern coast of Aberdeenshire. The areas form consistent stretches of long, broad sandy beaches backed by rolling extensive dunes. The coastline is even with Rattray Head, Scotstown Head and Forvie Ness forming subtle points edging long gently curving beaches. A very wide, gentle gradual transition occurs between this low-lying landscape and*

the very gently undulating and open Coastal Agricultural Plain to the west with largely uninterrupted views occurring from adjoining farmed coastal plains to sea.'

In respect of key characteristics, the description provided by NatureScot, identifies the following;

- *Long and gently curved sandy beaches backed by wind-sculpted seaward dunes to the east and comparatively solid landward dunes to the west.*
- *Low-lying scrubby grassland and occasional areas of wetland and pools forming immediate coast hinterland.*
- *Gradual transition between coast and Coastal Agricultural Plain of flat to very undulating pastures used mainly for sheep grazing.*
- *Saltmarsh, pools and inlets around higher farmland pastures.*
- *Few trees, with vegetation limited to coastal grassland, moss and marram which hold shifting sands together.*
- *Farm buildings in the area west of Loch of Strathbeg sited on subtly higher knolls above salt marsh.*
- *Containment within the dunes contrasting with expansive long beaches and open skies.*
- *Sense of naturalness and remoteness.*

The Landscape Character description identifies the following elements associated with the LCT;

Landform

The Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire Landscape Character Type constitutes a continuous stretch of sandy beaches backed by extensive rolling dunes. The coastline is even with Rattray Head and Scotstown Head forming subtle points edging long gently curving beaches.

A very gradual transition occurs between this low-lying landscape and the very gently undulating and open Coastal Agricultural Plain - Aberdeenshire farmland to the west with largely uninterrupted views occurring from adjoining farmed coastal plains to sea.

Landcover

Extending across the immediate hinterland are pastures, which vary from flat to very gently undulating, are used principally for sheep grazing. There are few trees although the long broadleaf shelterbelts of Rattray House to the south of Loch of Strathbeg stand out in this low-lying and open landscape. Any occasional solitary trees stand out amidst expansive flats and huge skies.

Settlement

Peterhead is the largest settlement in this Landscape Character Type. Otherwise this unstable landscape is almost devoid of settlement. Farm buildings in the area west of Loch of Strathbeg are sited on subtly higher knolls set above salt marsh and sheltered by clumps of broadleaf trees. Large industrial buildings and infrastructure is sited on the flat hinterland of Rattray Head and the St Fergus Gas Terminal, creating prominent features which can be viewed from miles inland. Coastal development increases close to Aberdeen.

Perception

Containment is experienced within the dunes, contrasting with the expansiveness of long beaches and open sea and skies. A strong sense of naturalness is associated with this coast, enhanced by the flocks of wildfowl seen on inland water bodies, saltmarsh and fields, especially in the winter. It is possible to feel remote on the beaches as dunes contain views of industrial features located within the immediate coastal hinterland.

Having reviewed the information and descriptions contained within the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment it is considered that whilst the broad descriptions are reflective of the LCT in general, at a more local level the character of the landscape is influenced by the mixed broadleaved and coniferous shelterbelt plantings, in particular the shelterbelt planting to the immediate north and south of the Proposed Development site, and plantings to the immediate west which create a localised sense of enclosure and prevent open views towards the coast.

1.3.3 Landscape Policies – Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017

A review of the current, adopted Local Development Plan (LDP 2017), has identified the following policies of relevance to this LVIA;

Policy E2 Landscape: *We will refuse development that causes unacceptable effects through its scale, location or design on key natural landscape elements, historic features or the composition or quality of the landscape character. These impacts can be either alone or cumulatively with other recent developments. Development should not otherwise significantly erode the characteristics of landscapes as defined in the Landscape Character Assessments produced by Scottish Natural Heritage or have been identified as Special Landscape Areas of local importance.*

Boundaries and qualifying criteria for Special Landscape Areas are identified in the supplementary guidance Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Areas. Developments located within Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted if the qualifying interests are not being adversely affected or effects of the development are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.

Policy PR1 Protecting important resources: *We will not approve developments that have a negative effect on important environmental resources associated with the water environment, important mineral deposits, prime agricultural land, peat and other carbon rich soils, open space, and important trees and woodland. In all cases development which impacts on any of these features will only be permitted when public economic or social benefits clearly outweigh the value of the site to the local community, and there are no reasonable alternative sites.*

Development resulting in the loss of, or serious damage to, trees and woodlands of significant ecological, recreational, historical, landscape or shelter value will not normally be permitted. In order to determine whether there are significant public benefits that would outweigh any loss or damage to trees and woodlands, the developer must submit an evaluation of the biodiversity and amenity value of the woodland and habitat, including both its current and potential future benefits. Where development is considered appropriate, damage to existing trees must be minimised and there must be no unnecessary fragmentation of existing or potential woodlands networks. Compensatory planting must also be undertaken to an agreed standard in order to mitigate the impact of the removal on landscape, sequestered carbon, character, amenity and ecological diversity.

We will support opportunities for new woodland creation and/ or enhancement, in line with the Aberdeenshire Forest and Woodland Strategy to be published as supplementary guidance to provide a focus for new planting, restocking, enhancement and management of woodlands.

Policy C2 Renewable energy: *We will support solar, wind, biomass (energy from biological material derived from living, or recently living organisms) and hydroelectricity developments which are in appropriate sites and of the right design. We treat biomass schemes as industrial processes suitable for business land.*

We will approve applications for solar panel arrays greater than 50kW if their cumulative impact with other arrays has been assessed and can be dismissed, account has been taken of glint and glare issues and it has been demonstrated that any significant impacts will have a duration of less than five minutes in any one day, there are no objections from the Ministry of Defence, the National Air Traffic Services or civil airport operators, and boundary treatments limit vehicular access to the site through means designed to make any security fencing unobtrusive and screen the development.

1.3.4 Landscape Designations Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017

As mentioned previously the Proposed Development site lies wholly within the Aberdeenshire Council Area, covered by the LDP 2017. A review of the LDP 2017 and other relevant statutory documents was undertaken in order to establish if there are any relevant landscape related designations that may influence the assessment. Identified designations are listed below.

Special Landscape Areas

A review of the LDP 2017 has identified that there are ten Special Landscape Areas (SLA) within the area covered by the LDP 2017, with the Proposed Development site wholly located within the SLA identified as the North East Aberdeenshire Coast SLA (refer Appendix A; Figure 2.0). It is noted that the North East Aberdeenshire Coast SLA extends across two sections of the Aberdeenshire Coast with the site wholly located within the southern portion of the Fraserburgh to Peterhead section of the SLA.

A review of the Statement of Importance contained within the Development Plan Supplementary Guidance, with relevance to the Fraserburgh to Peterhead section of the SLA is identified below;

Designation Statement

The North East Aberdeenshire Coast is a strip of coastal farmland with a strong sense of place. The SLA is unified by its east facing orientation onto the North Sea and wide sandy beaches backed by extensive dynamic dune systems with some outcrops of rugged cliffs.

Settlements and industry have had a major impact on this landscape, most notably the St Fergus Gas Terminal. Elsewhere, traditional fishing villages have a strong relationship with the coast are nestled into the sheltered landform. There are numerous features of built heritage interest along the coast.

The area is visible from the A90 and uninterrupted views out to sea are available from coastal paths including the clifftop walk at the Bullers of Buchan and the long distance Formartine and Buchan Way. There are also numerous golf courses along the coast.

The following aspects and features of this landscape are considered worthy of recognition through SLA designation:

- *Overriding horizontal composition, emphasised by low laying landform and “soft” gradual transition from land to sea.*
- *Expansive beaches backed by rolling dunes, views from beaches are typically directed out to sea or along the coast.*
- *Lighthouses such as Rattray form landmark features along the coast as by necessity they have prominent locations and colours, and a vertical form.*
- *A popular coast for visitors, with coastal paths, accessible dunes, golf courses and popular beaches.*
- *Features of built heritage typically prominent in the open landscape.*
- *Remains of WWII anti-invasion defences along the beaches, in particular at the mouth of the Ythan River and around Rattray Head.*
- *The siting and orientation of buildings can be highly distinctive, as seen at Inverallochy.*
- *Panoramic views out to sea from cliff tops and open beaches.*

The Supplementary Guidance also identifies the following forces for change, relevant to the Fraserburgh to Peterhead section of the SLA;

Forces for Change

- *Development on or near coastal cliffs and headlands impact on the sense of wildness felt or effect views out and from the sea.*
- *Expansion of recycling/ landfill developments around Blackdog negatively impact on the special features associated with this SLA.*
- *Development pressure for major residential and employment expansion as well as development within the Energetica area result in an unbalance between economic development and landscape conservation and enhancement.*
- *Increased growth associated with tourism such as golf, chalets and visitor centres.*
- *Continued development of renewable energy technologies (e.g. on and off-shore wind turbines, grid connection and associated infrastructure) affect views to and from the SLA.*
- *Potential for future development associated with carbon capture and storage result in damage or loss of features associated with the SLA.*
- *Impact of Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route in increasing the attractiveness of the area for development.*
- *Development proposals which effect the integrity of natural and historic features within the SLA, particularly development seeking to take advantage of sand dunes and beaches.*

The Supplementary Guidance also identifies the following management recommendations, relevant to the Fraserburgh to Peterhead section of the SLA;

Management Recommendations

- *The North East Aberdeenshire Coast SLA is classed as a coastal landscape type. As such emphasis should be to maintain the focus of development within existing coastal settlements in order to retain the character of the coastal area. Development within settlements should be of scale and style that respects and complements their coastal character. The effects of development along the coastal edge and within the hinterland adjacent to the SLA should be carefully considered.*
- *Development which seeks to exploit the expansive beaches and rolling dunes, should be carefully considered in order to ensure that the dune network and panoramic views within are not negatively impacted upon.*
- *The setting of lighthouses and other landmark features along the coast should be protected.*
- *Landscape and visual impacts of proposed developments in and around the edge of coastal settlements, should be clearly set out in a coastal character assessment, as to ensure that any impacts (both positive and negative) can be determined.*
- *The siting and orientation of buildings can be highly distinctive. Siting and design should be carefully considered to ensure development respects the vernacular heritage and sense of place felt in coastal settlements.*

1.3.5 Landscape Policies – Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020

A review of the available information in relation to the proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020, has identified that policies within the proposed LDP 2020 are similar to those within the current, adopted LDP 2017.

1.3.6 Gardens and Designed Landscapes

The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL), under the remit of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has prepared surveys of GDL's within Scotland. A review of the inventory held by HES has identified that no GDL's will be directly affected by the Proposed Development.

The closest GDL is Crimongate (GDL00397) located approximately 9.47km north-east of the Proposed Development site. The identified site is considered to experience no effect as a consequence of the Proposed Development due to screening provided by intervening woodland vegetation along the south-eastern boundaries of the GDL and intervening topographical changes and as such has not been carried forward for assessment purposes.

1.3.7 Long Distance Walking Routes

Opened in the early 1990s, the Formartine and Buchan Way (refer Appendix A; Figure 3.0) runs along the former route of the railway that extended from Dyce on the fringes of Aberdeen north to Maud, where it split with branches heading to both Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

The Peterhead branch split of the Formartine and Buchan Way is located approximately 2.9km southwest of the southern boundary of the Proposed Development site at its closest point.

1.3.8 Aberdeenshire Core Paths Network

A number of Core Paths (refer Appendix A; Figure 3.0) lie within close proximity to the Proposed Development Site, and have been identified from the available GIS information associated with the LDP. Identified Core Paths include;

- Old Rattray to Peterhead (Core Path ID 7LD.01.18); located approximately 0.5km east of the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development site. The Core Path is approximately 15km long, forming a link route between Peterhead, to the south and Rattray Head to the north. The coastal link is primarily located on the beaches and headlands to the east of the Proposed Development site;

- Scotston Head Path (Core Path ID 217.01) ; a 0.3km long route located approximately 240m north of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development site, linking the above Core Path (7LD.01.18) with St. Fergus via the on road Core Path (L30R);
- Scotston Head Road Link (Core Path L30R) ; a 1.2km (approximately) long section of on road Core Path, linking St.Fergus with the Coastal Core Path (7LD.01.18) which is located approximately 340m north of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development site at its closest point; and
- St Fergus recreational ground path (Core Path 217.02) ; a 0.34km long route to the west of St. Fergus, located approximately 1.2km west of the north-western boundary of the Proposed Development site.

1.4 Proposed Development

The Proposed Development, as described in the Planning Statement, consists of the construction and operation of an electricity generating station with installed capacity in excess of 50megawatts (MW) consisting of a solar PV farm of approximately 50MW capacity and a battery energy storage facility of approximately 20MW capacity. The battery storage facility will comprise approximately 10 No. storage units typically measuring 12.2m (l) x 2.4(w) x 2.6m (h).

It is proposed to locate the facility beside the proposed Primary Substation within the site and near to its south-western boundary.

Additional project components considered within the LVIA are listed below:

- Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Panels erected on steel/aluminium frames;
- 1 on-site Primary Sub-station typically measuring 6m (l) x 3.2(w) x 3.4m (h);
- 50 No. Inverter Substations typically measuring 7m (l) x 2.5(w) x 3m (h) to be located across the site;
- Perimeter post and wire (deer style) fencing (2.45m high);
- Strategically located CCTV security cameras (3m high) angled to provide visual supervision of the development only;
- Access via an existing lane with minor upgrades from the adjacent A90 located immediately west of the site; and
- Associated internal service tracks.

Where there is potential for minor deviations in respect of project components, for example heights of panels off the ground, in all instances the maximum/most onerous design parameter has been applied to ensure a robust "worst case scenario" assessment.

1.5 Landscape Impacts

The assessment of landscape effects follows the methodology previously described in Section 1.2 and considers those effects which are predicted to occur during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development.

The assessment of construction phase effects relates to the following identified activities:

- Construction works associated with the formation of the battery storage facility, substation and associated infrastructure development;
- Delivery of materials to working areas; and
- Localised site clearance and reinstatement.

The construction phase of the Proposed Development will result in additional built elements being introduced into the landscape. The operational phase of the Proposed Development will result in new built form being visible within the surrounding landscape.

An assessment of landscape and visual impacts during both construction and operation is provided below.

Table 1.8: Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire (LCT 12); Predicted Impacts

Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire (LCT 12)	
Sensitivity	<p>The Proposed Development is wholly contained within this LCT.</p> <p>Key characteristics which, together with field work, have informed an understanding of the susceptibility of this landscape, particularly at a local level, to the development proposed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered coniferous and mixed species deciduous shelterbelt planting creates enclosure and screening of coastal views from the A90 • General lack of elevation, with coniferous shelterbelt planting forming visual interest • Gently undulating agricultural land with localised elevated land forming visual draw • Containment is experienced within the dunes forming the narrow transition between beach and agricultural land • Extensive, expansive sandy beaches and views of sea screened in views from A90 by coastal dune system • Landscape character locally influenced by St Fergus Gas Terminal • Locally influenced by operational turbines at Bruxiehill <p>Overall the character of the LCT within the study area is influenced by coniferous shelterbelt planting, mixed species shelterbelt planting, visibility of the operational St Fergus Gas Terminal, visibility of operation wind turbines at Bruxiehill and distant views of tall pylons carrying overhead lines and further operational turbines, though still retains a degree of openness. Views of the North Sea, to the east, from the existing road network are limited by the undulating nature of the dune system, such that the North Sea is not perceived in eastern views. Taking account of the above characteristics and the influence of existing man made features within the study areas, the susceptibility of the LCA to the type of development proposed is judged to be medium.</p> <p>The LCT within the study area forms a small portion of the Fraserburgh to Peterhead section of the North East Aberdeenshire Coast designated as a Special Landscape Area, a regional designation. Given the localised influences of shelterbelt planting, existing road corridors and scattered residential properties and scattered farmsteads the overall value of the LCT within the study area is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Based on the susceptibility and value attached to this LCT, the overall sensitivity of this LCT is judged to be medium.</p>
Magnitude of Change	<p>Direct impacts on this LCT will arise from the physical construction of the Proposed Development, resulting in the introduction of a new manmade element into the existing landscape. The existing vegetation within the Proposed Development site boundary will be retained in tact which will soften the impact.</p> <p>New built form and associated ancillary features will require construction equipment and activities that will be locally conspicuous during the construction phase. It is considered that construction activities will have a localised, temporary effect as the surrounding coniferous shelterbelt planting, together with scattered instances of planting adjacent to the A90 and vegetation adjacent to existing laneway access's will quickly absorb such activities.</p> <p>Localised portions of the LCT adjacent to, but beyond the site boundary of the Proposed Development are predicted to experience indirect effects only as a consequence of the formation of the new features, though the predicted effects to the east are negated by existing dune systems and to the north and south by enclosure provided by coniferous shelterbelt planting.</p> <p>The predicted magnitude of change associated with the formation of new built form, including ancillary infrastructure and security fencing are considered to be localised and large during the construction phase, restricted to land contained within the site boundary.</p> <p>During the operational phase, new buildings, battery storage facility, inverters, solar PV panels, substation and security fencing will be perceived as a moderate alteration locally, though generally not obvious within the wider context due to its low development form. Proposed planting along western boundaries of the site will increase the screening provided by existing vegetation.</p> <p>The predicted magnitude of change in the landscape resource is considered to be localised and medium during the operational phase, prior to the establishment of mitigation planting.</p>

Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire (LCT 12)

Significance of Landscape Effect during Construction Phase	Moderate to major, temporary, short duration assessed as locally significant effects are predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
	Remaining portions of the LCT outside of the Proposed Development boundary are predicted to experience no significant indirect effects.
Significance of Landscape Effect during Operational Phase.	Moderate localised, long term, reversible significant landscape effects are predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development prior to establishment of mitigation planting.
	Predicted effects during the operational phase are limited in extent by surrounding coniferous shelterbelt plantations to the immediate north and south of the Proposed Development Site. Additional built form will become less apparent in the local landscape as mitigation planting on western boundaries establishes and matures. Additional built form elements will be perceived as a noticeable alteration, though not out of scale with the character of the LCT.
	Remaining portions of the LCT outside of the Proposed Development boundary are predicted to experience no significant indirect effects.

1.5.1 Landscape Designation Impacts

An assessment of the significance of impact arising from the Proposed Development during the construction and operational phases on the landscape designations identified and described in Section 1.3 previously are provided in the following tables.

Table 1.9: Special Landscape Area; Predicted Impacts

North East Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area	
Sensitivity	<p>This designation extends across two sections of the Aberdeenshire Coast: from Fraserburgh to Peterhead and from Buchan Ness to Blackdog, with the Proposed Development site wholly located within a small southern portion of the Fraserburgh to Peterhead section of the SLA.</p> <p>Within the study area the western boundary of the SLA is defined by the A90 transport corridor, whilst eastern boundaries align with the edge of expansive sandy beaches and rocky headlands associated with the coastline. It is noted that the large industrial town of Peterhead, and the developed coast immediately south, are excluded from the SLA. The SLA designation also recognises the value of the dune systems and other features that contribute to the landscape character and the opportunities for formal and informal recreation, such as long-distance walking routes and coastal paths.</p> <p>The Supplementary Guidance that accompanies the LDP 2017, identifies the following aspects and features of the SLA that are considered worthy of retention, which are judged to be of relevance to the portion of the SLA within the study area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overriding horizontal composition, emphasised by low laying landform and “soft” gradual transition from land to sea. • Expansive beaches backed by rolling dunes, views from beaches are typically directed out to sea or along the coast. • A popular coast for visitors, with coastal paths, accessible dunes, golf courses and popular beaches. • Panoramic views out to sea from cliff tops and open beaches. <p>Whilst the description of the SLA within the Supplementary Guidance is generally reflective of the wider character of the SLA, at a more local level within the study area, the SLA is influenced by coniferous shelterbelt planting, localised topographical changes, and topographical changes associated with the dune system adjacent, which combine to screen views of the North Sea to the east. The SLA is also locally influenced by the St Fergus Gas Terminal, operational turbines at Bruxiehill and more distant views of operational turbines at Overside and Greenwellheads farms. Taking account of the characteristics and the influence of existing manmade features within the Study Area the</p>

North East Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area

	<p>susceptibility of the designation to the type of development proposed is judged to be medium.</p> <p>The overall value of the designation is judged to be medium as it is a regional level designation.</p> <p>Based on the susceptibility and value attached to this local landscape Area, the overall sensitivity is judged to be medium due to influences of existing built form such as St Fergus Gas terminal and indirect influences from operational turbines.</p>
Magnitude of Change	<p>Construction traffic and construction activities within the Proposed Development site will have a short term, localised direct effect upon areas covered by this designation that lie within the site boundary and at proximity to the boundaries of the Site. Predicted effects are restricted by existing coniferous shelterbelt planting along the northern and southern boundaries of the site boundary with important dune features and localised changes in topography remaining free of development.</p> <p>The predicted magnitude of change associated with the construction phase is judged to be localised and large.</p> <p>During the operational phase, new buildings, battery storage facility, inverters, solar PV panels, substation and security fencing will be perceived from western portions of the SLA designation (A90), though will not be readily perceived in southern or northern views due to intervening vegetation. Visible portions of the Proposed Development, prior to establishment of mitigation planting, will be viewed as a noticeable alteration, though not out of scale with the surrounding character of the SLA.</p> <p>The predicted magnitude of change in the landscape resource is considered to be localised and medium during the operational phase.</p>
Significance of Effect during Construction Phase	<p>Moderate to major, temporary, short duration assessed as locally significant effects are predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Remaining portions of the LCT outside of the Proposed Development boundary are predicted to experience no significant indirect effects.</p>
Significance of Effect during Operational Phase.	<p>Moderate, long term, reversible effects, assessed as locally significant, predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development prior to establishment of mitigation planting.</p> <p>Predicted effects during the operational phase are limited by surrounding coniferous shelterbelt plantations to the immediate north and south of the Proposed Development site. Additional built form will become less apparent in the local landscape as mitigation planting establishes and matures. Additional built form elements will be perceived as a noticeable alteration, though not out of scale with the character of the LCT.</p> <p>Remaining portions of the LCT outside of the Proposed Development boundary are predicted to experience no significant indirect effects.</p>

As previously described in Section 1.3.6, the identified Gardens and Designed Landscapes at Crimongate (GDL00397) is judged to experience no impact as a consequence of the Proposed Development due to screening effects provided by intervening mixed species woodland planting, localised topographical changes and built form.

Table 1.10 below summarises the predicted significance of landscape effect for each of the previously assessed character areas and designations.

Table 1.10: Landscape Impacts; Predicted Impacts

Landscape Designation	Predicted Construction Phase Landscape Effects	Predicted Operational Phase Landscape Effects
North East Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area	Moderate to major, temporary, short duration, locally significant effects	Moderate, long term effects, assessed as locally significant effects, predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of

Landscape Designation	Predicted Construction Phase Landscape Effects	Predicted Operational Phase Landscape Effects
		the Proposed Development prior to establishment of mitigation planting.
Crimongate (GDL00397)	None	None

1.6 Visual Effects

An initial selection of 6 viewpoints were identified as an aid to illustrate the existing visual context of the Proposed Development and were provided to Aberdeenshire Council Planners for consideration and comment as to their suitability and whether additional viewpoints were to be considered as part of the LVIA.

The response received from Aberdeenshire Council Planners in November 2020, confirmed acceptance of the proposed viewpoints, however requested the inclusion of an additional viewpoint from the adjacent church yard at the remains of St Fergus' Church.

As a result of taking on board the additional viewpoint suggested by Council Planners and further to site assessment during which a further viewpoint was added, a series of 8 viewpoints have been used to illustrate the existing visual context of the Proposed Development and as an aid to the visual impact assessment.

All of the viewpoints have been located on publicly accessible roads, footpaths, verges and walking routes (refer to Appendix A; Figure 5.0). Visualisations from each of the viewpoint locations are included in Appendix A, Figure 6.0 to Figure 14.0.

Viewpoints have also been selected to meet the following criteria:

- A balance of viewpoints from where the main direction of view is towards the Proposed Development;
- A range of views towards the Proposed Development from within the Study Area;
- Locations of interest e.g. recreational areas, local roads, settlements, protected views and prospects.

To avoid repetition, an assessment of construction phase impacts and predicted operational phase impacts is included within the following viewpoint assessment tables.

Table 1.11: Viewpoint 1 – Scotston Sand Dunes

Viewpoint 1 – Scotston Sand Dunes			
Grid Ref	411285, 852254	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 6.0
Direction of View	South west	Approx Proposed Redevelopment Distance to	0.35km
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located approximately 350m north east of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development site, within the dune system in close proximity to the car park at Scotston.</p> <p>Views south west from this elevated location, as represented in Appendix A; Figure 6.0 are generally expansive in nature with panoramic views available to the south, west and north, with eastern views partially restricted by intervening sand dunes. The immediate foreground, at lower elevation, is comprised of the western edge of the sand dune system and currently utilised as rough pasture grazing. Arable pasture lands are partially visible at mid distance across the view, though difficult to discern due to intervening topographical changes. Peterhead Powerstation and associated stacks, visible on the distant horizon form a distinct visual element to the left of the view. Large pylons carrying overhead lines are perceived at distance above the horizon, but form a minor, often indistinguishable element of the view. Coniferous shelterbelt planting forms a large element of the view, visible as a textural change and perceived as a contrasting colour</p>		

Viewpoint 1 – Scotston Sand Dunes

	<p>within the expansive view available. Scattered residential properties and farmsteads are visible throughout the view, however are generally not perceived due to screening provided by topographical changes and screening by vegetation. The A90 transport corridor is not visible in the view, whilst timber poles carrying overhead lines are often perceived against a well vegetated backdrop.</p> <p>Views from this location are primarily experienced by recreational receptors in the vicinity.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Receptors at this location are judged to be of a high susceptibility as they are recreational receptors. However, whilst the view illustrated in Appendix A; Figure 6.0 is available to receptors the main visual draw is east, towards the adjacent beach and coastline areas.</p> <p>The view is representative of views from a recognised stopping place, and the value of the view is judged to be medium as the view is of a regionally designated landscape.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be high.</p>
Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will be visible at mid distance across the central portion of the view, though perceived below distant horizons and amongst existing strong belts of coniferous vegetation. Construction phase activities and vehicular movements, where visible, will be viewed as a minor addition to the overall view (refer Appendix A; Figure 6.1).</p> <p>During the operational phase the Proposed Development will be visible as a minor addition to the view, with visible portions perceived below existing horizon lines set amongst and against a well vegetated background which will aid visual integration. Existing elements of the view, such as the Peterhead Power station and associated stacks, will remain a strong visual draw on the distant horizon whilst the character of the view will remain largely unaltered by visible elements of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development are judged to be small as visible elements will be perceived as a slight alteration and addition to the view.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	<p>Minor to moderate, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects are predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	<p>Minor to moderate, long term, reversible, assessed as not significant visual effects are predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.</p>

Table 1.12: Viewpoint 2 – Scotston Car Park

Viewpoint 2 – Scotston Car Park			
Grid Ref	411250, 852218	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 7.0
Direction of View	South west	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	0.31km
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on the grassed area adjacent to the Scotston Car Park and is representative of views available from a lower elevation adjacent to the existing dune system.</p> <p>Views south west from the car park are screened by rising lands across the central portion of the view, as represented in Appendix A; Figure 7.0. The foreground is comprised of grassland, hard surfaced parking area and access track associated with the parking area at Scotston. Mid distance areas are comprised of grazing lands whilst horizons at mid distance are associated with elevated agricultural lands, which screen views of land beyond.</p> <p>Views from this location are primarily experienced by recreational receptors in the vicinity.</p>		

Viewpoint 2 – Scotston Car Park

Sensitivity	<p>Receptors at this location are judged to be of a high susceptibility as they are recreational receptors.</p> <p>The view is representative of views from a recognised stopping place, and the value of the view is judged to be low as whilst the view is of a regionally designated landscape, the view is foreshortened by elevated land is not representative of wider views.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be medium.</p>
Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will not be visible within the view due to screening by intervening landform across the central portion of the view (refer Appendix A; Figure 7.0).</p> <p>During the operational phase the Proposed Development will not be visible within the view due to screening by intervening landform across the central portion of the view at mid distance.</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development are judged to be no change due to the enclosing nature of the surrounding landform and screening effects of intervening landform.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	None.
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	None.

Table 1.13: Viewpoint 3 – St Fergus

Viewpoint 3 – St Fergus

Grid Ref	409967, 851908	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 8.0
Direction of View	South east	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	0.96km
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on the grassed verge adjacent to the bus stop at the junction between the Scotston car park access and the A90, to the immediate south east of St Fergus.</p> <p>Views south east from this location, as represented in Appendix A; Figure 8.0, whilst expansive in nature become restricted by existing areas of coniferous shelterbelt planting and roadside vegetation associated with the A90. Horizons, visible at distance are formed by undulating land associated with the dune system forming the transition between coast and agricultural land lying further inland. Mixed arable and pastoral lands are visible throughout the view, enclosed by the coniferous shelterbelt planting, with a single residential property partially visible to the left of the view. Coniferous trees and evergreen hedging forming the boundaries to this property form a distinct visual draw in the view. Timber poles carrying overhead lines are perceived at mid distance across the central portion of the view, partially visible above distant horizons. Additional verticality is provided by existing street signage and lighting associated with the existing road networks.</p> <p>This view is primarily experienced, in the periphery by adjacent road receptors, traveling at speed on the A90, with the view only apparent as a brief glimpsed view. The view is also experienced by pedestrians at the bus stop and as a peripheral view from residential properties to the rear of the viewpoint location.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Road receptors at this location are judged to be of a low susceptibility as the view is generally peripheral to the direction of travel. Pedestrians in the vicinity of the viewpoint location are judged to be of a medium susceptibility, whilst residential receptors are considered to be of a high susceptibility.</p> <p>Whilst the view is not representative of views from a promoted stopping place the value of the view is judged to be medium as the view is of a regionally designated landscape.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be medium.</p>		

Viewpoint 3 – St Fergus

Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will be visible at distance across the central portion of the view available, with remaining portions of the site screened by intervening vegetation cover (refer Appendix A; Figure 8.1). Construction phase operations will be viewed as a minor, short duration, temporary addition to the view with visible portions perceived well below distant horizon lines.</p> <p>During the operational phase the Proposed Development will be perceived at distance across the central portion of the view, set well below and against the elevated land and horizon, with horizon lines remaining unaffected by elements of the Proposed Development. Visible portions of the Proposed Development will be difficult to perceive in the view, with existing elements of the view remaining the main visual draw and interest to viewers.</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development are judged to be small as visible portions will be viewed at distance and are difficult to perceive within the view.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Minor, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects are predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	Minor, long term, reversible, assessed as not significant visual effects are predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Table 1.14: Viewpoint 4a – A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View North east)

Viewpoint 4a – A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View North east)

Grid Ref	410502, 850893	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 9.0
Direction of View	North-east	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	30m
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on the grassed verge adjacent to the A90, opposite the laneway access to St Fergus Cemetery and is located approximately 30m from the western boundary of the Proposed Development site.</p> <p>North eastern views from this location are presented in Appendix A; Figure 9.0 Views north east (refer Appendix A; Figure 9.0) are filtered and restricted by existing vegetation adjacent to the A90 and along the access track to residential property at North Kirkton (right of represented view). New tree and hedgerow planting is visible adjacent to the existing field boundary, and partially filter views of lands at lower elevation beyond. Coniferous shelterbelt planting is visible to the left of the view at lower elevation, forming partial enclosure to pastoral lands adjacent. Horizons visible in the central portion of the view, formed by existing dune system adjacent to the coast are partially filtered by intervening tree planting. Mixed species shelterbelt planting, associated with a residential property at North Kirkton is visible to the right of the view, together with mixed species planting adjacent to the laneway access to St Fergus Cemetery.</p> <p>This view is primarily experienced, in the periphery by adjacent road receptors, traveling north-bound on the A90 and as such must be taken as a glimpse view only through spacing in existing hedgerows. Southbound traffic will not experience this view.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Road Receptors at this location are judged to be of a low susceptibility as they are primarily road receptors and views are experienced primarily in the periphery.</p> <p>Whilst the view is not representative of views from a promoted stopping place the value of the view is judged to be medium as the view is of a regionally designated landscape.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be medium.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will be visible in this view at a lower elevation than the A90, with operations and vehicle movements seen against existing coniferous shelterbelt planting and below perceived horizons formed by the dune system beyond (refer</p>		

Viewpoint 4a – A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View North east)

	<p>Appendix A; Figure 9.1). Intervening field boundary tree and hedge planting will partially filter views north east.</p> <p>During the operational phase the Proposed Development will be visible within the view, against the vegetated back drop of coniferous shelterbelt planting, below the perceived horizons formed by existing vegetation and coastal landform (refer Appendix A; Figure 9.1). Existing tree and hedge planting adjacent to the field boundary will partially screen views with panels apparent below</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be localised and large.</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be localised and large prior to the successful implementation of mitigation planting along western boundaries of the site adjacent to the A90.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Localised moderate to major, temporary, assessed as significant, effects predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	Localised moderate to major, long term, reversible effects assessed as significant, predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development prior to successful establishment of proposed boundary planting (refer Appendix A; Figure 9.2).

Table 1.15: Viewpoint 4b – A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View South east)

Viewpoint 4b – A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View South east)

Grid Ref	410502, 850893	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 10.0
Direction of View	South east	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	30m
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on the grassed verge adjacent to the A90, opposite the laneway access to St Fergus Cemetery and is located approximately 30m from the western boundary of the Proposed Development site.</p> <p>Views from this location are presented in Appendix A; Figure 10.0 (south east). Views south east (refer Appendix A; Figure 10.0) are partially screened by existing vegetation adjacent to the laneway access, to the left of the view, and become more open and panoramic in nature to the right of the view. Existing shelterbelt planting associated with South Kirkton is visible above the horizon in the centre of the view and forms a distinct visual draw. Coniferous shelterbelt planting adjacent to the southern boundary of the site is partially visible above intervening landform, elevating the horizon to the right of the view. Timber poles carrying overhead lines are visible throughout the view adjacent to the laneway access and the A90, adding verticality to the view, which also contains views of signage, bollards and crash barriers which form visual detractors to the view.</p> <p>This view is primarily experienced, in the periphery by adjacent road receptors, traveling southbound on the A90. However an elevated residential receptor to the rear of the viewpoint location is afforded south eastern views, though these are partially screened by an evergreen garden boundary hedgerow.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>South-bound Road Receptors at this location are judged to be of a low susceptibility as they are primarily road receptors and views are experienced primarily in the periphery. Residential receptors in the vicinity of the viewpoint location are judged to be of a high susceptibility.</p> <p>Whilst the view is not representative of views from a promoted stopping place the value of the view is judged to be medium as the view is of a regionally designated landscape. Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be medium.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Construction phase operations and machinery movements associated with the proposed battery storage and substation building will be partially visible at distance, within a small portion of the overall south-eastern view (refer Appendix A; Figure 10.1), though movements and operations will be viewed against a well vegetated back drop which aids</p>		

Viewpoint 4b – A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View South east)

	<p>visual integration. Operations and machinery movements associated with the instillation of the PV Panels will be largely screened by intervening topographical changes, though only apparent in a minor portion central portion of the available view.</p> <p>During the operational phase of the Proposed Development (refer Appendix A; Figure 10.1) visible elements of the Proposed Development will be perceived as a minor addition to the view. Where visible the Proposed Development will be seen against a vegetated backdrop which aids visual integration and well below perceived horizons formed by existing coniferous shelterbelt planting. .</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be localised and small.</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are considered to be localised and small for south eastern portions of the view prior to the successful implementation of mitigation planting along western boundaries of the site.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Localised minor, temporary, assessed as not significant, effects predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	Localised minor, reversible and not significant, long term, effects predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development prior to the successful establishment of mitigation planting along western boundaries of the site (refer Appendix A; Figure 10.1).

Table 1.16: Viewpoint 5 – St Fergus Cemetery

Viewpoint 5 – St Fergus Cemetery

Grid Ref	411537, 850745	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 11.0
Direction of View	West	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	0.15km
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on a grassed area adjacent to the parking provision at St Fergus Cemetery, approximately 150m east of the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development Site.</p> <p>Views west from this location are generally open and panoramic in nature, with coniferous shelterbelt planting forming a distinct visual contrast to the pastoral grassland within the view. Coniferous shelterbelt planting, associated with the farmsteading at South Kirkton, is visible as a distinct feature in the central portion of the view and screens views of horizons beyond (refer Appendix A; Figure 11.0). Existing vegetation elevates perceived horizonlines, whilst the pylons carrying overhead lines are visible above horizons across the central portion of the view.</p> <p>It is noted that whilst not contained within the representative view, operational turbines at Bruxiehill, Overside and Greenwellheads farms and the gas terminal facility at St Fergus are all visible to the north. To the south, the stacks and distinct outline of Peterhead power station are visible above the undulating dune landform.</p> <p>This view is primarily experienced by visitors to the cemetery and adjacent St Fergus Church ruins, with views east across the North Sea mainly experienced from within the cemetery.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Receptors at this location are judged to be of a high susceptibility as they are primarily recreational receptors or visitors to the cemetery.</p> <p>The value of the view is judged to be medium as it is primarily rural in nature, and is of a regionally designated landscape, though influenced by existing man made features such as operational turbines and St Fergus Gas terminal to the north.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be high.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will be visible across the whole of the central portion of the view, visible at a variety of distances (refer Appendix A; Figure 11.1). Construction phase</p>		

Viewpoint 5 – St Fergus Cemetery

	<p>operations will be viewed well below distant horizons, against a well vegetated backdrop. Visual effects experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development are judged to be localised and large.</p> <p>During the operational phase solar array's and inverter substations within the eastern portion of the Site will be visible across the central portions of the view at mid distance, though generally viewed against a well vegetated backdrop which will aid visual integration. Remaining portions of the Proposed Development will be visible at distance, though partly screened by elements of the Proposed Development seen at closer distance to the viewpoint location (refer Appendix A; Figure 11.1). Elements of the panoramic view forming the main visual draws, such as the coniferous shelterbelt planting to the southern boundary and around South Kirkton will remain as a strong visual draw within the view and distant horizons and skylines are retained, which aids visual integration. Visual effects experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are judged to be localised and large, prior to the successful implementation of mitigation planting along the eastern boundary</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	Major to substantial, short term, localised assessed as significant visual effects predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	Major to substantial, localised, long term, reversible effects, assessed as significant effects predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development prior to the successful establishment of mitigation planting.

Table 1.17: Viewpoint 6 – Kinloch Road

Viewpoint 6 – Kinloch Road			
Grid Ref	409899, 849665	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 12.0
Direction of View	North east	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	0.9km
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on the grassed verge adjacent to the Kinloch Road, approximately 900m from the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development site. Views north east from this location, as represented in Appendix A; Figure 12.0, are panoramic and expansive in nature, though become partially restricted in nature by rising lands to the left of the view. The foreground and land at mid distance, visible at lower elevation within the central portion of the view, is comprised of mixed arable and pastoral lands with strong enclosure provided by coniferous shelterbelt planting. Lands between the extensive shelterbelt planting and the coastline are screened within the view, though shelterbelt planting associated with the farmsteading at South Kirkton forms a strong visual draw. Undulating horizons associated with the dunes system are also visible at distance and form further visual interest within the view. Distant horizons formed by the North Sea are generally expansive in nature and free from punctuation by vertical elements within the view. The A90 transport corridor is perceived in the view, at lower elevation, due to traffic movements, though is generally screened by roadside vegetation and forms a minor element within the overall view. Scattered dwellings are also perceived in the view, though generally well screened by shelterbelt and boundary plantings.</p> <p>This view is primarily experienced by road receptors on the Kirkton Road, however the view is also experienced by residential receptors in the immediate vicinity and recreational (walkers) on the road.</p>		
Sensitivity	Receptors at this location are judged to be of a medium susceptibility as they are primarily road receptors moving at low speeds. Recreational receptors and residential receptors are considered to be of a high susceptibility at this location.		

Viewpoint 6 – Kinloch Road

	<p>Whilst the view is not representative of views from a promoted stopping place, the value of the view is judged to be medium as it is primarily rural in nature and is of a designated landscape.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be high.</p>
Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will be visible within a minor, narrow portion of the overall view, between the intervening screening provided by coniferous shelterbelt planting (refer Appendix A; Figure 12.1) and horizons formed by the dunes.</p> <p>During the operational phase PV panels associated with the Proposed Development will be partially visible beyond intervening shelterbelt planting as a minor addition to the overall expansive view. Visible portions of the Proposed Development will be perceived below existing horizons, with existing elements and character of the view remaining largely unaltered.</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development are judged to be negligible due to the screening effects of intervening vegetation.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	<p>Minor, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects are predicted to be experienced during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.</p>
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	<p>Minor, long term, reversible assessed as not significant visual effects are predicted to be experienced during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.</p>

Table 1.18: Viewpoint 7 – Formartine and Buchan Way

Viewpoint 7 – Formartine and Buchan Way

Grid Ref	409044, 847907	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 12.0
Direction of View	North east	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	2.8km
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Formartine and Buchan Way, approximately 2.8km south west of the southern boundary of the Proposed Development site.</p> <p>Views north east from this location, as represented in Appendix A; Figure 13.0 are restricted by intervening topographical changes and vegetation forming field boundaries adjacent to the walking trail. It is noted that the Formartine and Buchan Way runs along the route of the former railway line Maud and Peterhead and views are generally restricted by a combination of topographical changes (cuttings) and vegetation.</p> <p>Upper portions and roof tops associated with scattered residential and farmstead properties are visible above mid distance horizons, adding localised points of visual interest to the view.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Receptors on this location are judged to be of a high susceptibility as they are recreational receptors / visitors on the promoted Formartine and Buchan Way.</p> <p>Whilst the view is representative of views from a recognised and promoted walking route the value of the view is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be high.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will not be visible within the view due to screening by intervening landform across the central portion of the view (refer Appendix A; Figure 12.0).</p> <p>During the operational phase the Proposed Development will not be visible within the view due to screening by intervening landform across the central portion of the view at mid distance.</p>		

Viewpoint 7 – Formartine and Buchan Way

	Visual effects experienced during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development are judged to be no change due to the enclosing nature of the surrounding landform and screening effects of intervening landform.
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	None.
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	None.

Table 1.19: Viewpoint 8 – Buchanhaven, Peterhead

Viewpoint 8 – Buchanhaven, Peterhead

Grid Ref	412749, 847314	Existing View Figure Number	Figure 14.0
Direction of View	North west	Approx Distance to Proposed Redevelopment	3.0km
Description of existing view and potential receptors	<p>This viewpoint is located on the coastal footpath at Buchanhaven, Peterhead identified as Core Path 7LD.01.18.</p> <p>Views north west from this location, as represented in Appendix A; Figure 14.0 are expansive and open in nature, offering extensive views of the coastline and beaches along the north eastern coastline of Aberdeenshire. Horizons within the view are formed by the existing coastal transition lands to the left of the view, whilst more distant horizons to the right are formed by the North Sea. Horizons are punctuated by tall vertical structures associated with the St Fergus Gas Terminal facility within the central portion of the view whilst existing coniferous shelterbelt planting is perceived to elevate portions of the horizon. Operational wind turbines at Bruxiehill are perceived as minor elements of the view whilst pylons and timber poles carrying overhead lines are visible above existing horizons to the left of the view. The light house at Rattray Head is visible as a minor, distant feature on the horizon.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Receptors at this location are judged to be of a high susceptibility as they are recreational receptors on the footpath, and the view is also considered to be representative of views available to residential receptors to the rear of the viewpoint location.</p> <p>Whilst the view is not representative of views from a recognised/ promoted stopping place, the value of the view is judged to be high.</p> <p>Overall the sensitivity of the view is judged to be high.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>During the construction phase, operations and machinery movements associated with the Proposed Development will not be visible within the view due to screening by intervening landform (refer Appendix A; Figure 14.0).</p> <p>During the operational phase the Proposed Development will not be visible within the view due to screening by intervening landform across the central portion of the view at mid distance.</p> <p>Visual effects experienced during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development are judged to be no change due to the screening provided by intervening landform.</p>		
Significance of Visual Effect during Construction Phase	None.		
Significance of Visual Effect during Operational Phase	None.		

Table 1.20 below summarises the predicted significance of visual effects from each of the previously assessed viewpoints for the construction phase and operational phase of the Proposed Development

Table 1.20: Summary of Predicted Visual Effects

Viewpoint		Predicted Construction Phase Visual Effects	Predicted Operational Phase Visual Effects
1	Scotston Sand Dunes	Minor to moderate, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects	Minor to moderate, long term, reversible assessed as not significant visual effects
2	Scotston Car Park	None	None
3	St Fergus	Minor, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects	Minor, long term, reversible assessed as not significant visual effects
4a	A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View North east)	Localised moderate to major, temporary, assessed as significant visual effects.	Localised moderate to major, long term, reversible effects assessed as significant visual effects
4b	A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View South east)	Localised minor, temporary, assessed as not significant, visual effects	Localised minor, reversible and not significant long term visual effects
5	St Fergus Cemetery	Major to substantial, short term, localised assessed as significant visual effects.	Major to substantial, long term, localised, reversible assessed as significant visual effects.
6	Kinloch Road	Minor, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects	Minor, long term, reversible assessed as not significant visual effects
7	Formartine and Buchan Way	None	None
8	Buchanhaven, Peterhead	None	None

1.6.1 Views from Core Paths

As mentioned previously at Section 1.3.8, there are a number of Core Paths (refer Appendix A, Figure 3.0) that lie within close proximity to the Proposed Development Site. None of the identified path networks will be directly affected by the Proposed Development and effects are limited to visual effects only. Receptors on the Core Paths networks are considered to be of a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed.

In relation to predicted visual impacts on views from Old Rattray to Peterhead (Core Path ID 7LD.01.18); located approximately 0.5km east of the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development site at its closest point. The Core Path is approximately 15.18km long and forms a linking route between Peterhead, to the south and Rattray Head to the north. The route of the Core Path is located on the beaches to the east of the Proposed Development site and predicted impacts are limited by the intervening elevated dune systems to the immediate west. Views from the Core Path are generally to the east, where open, expansive panoramic views of the North Sea are available. The Proposed Development site is screened by the extensive dune system to the immediate west of the Core Path, and it is judged that construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development will be negligible, giving rise to a minor and not significant visual effect.

In relation to predicted visual impacts from Scotston Head Path (Core Path ID 217.01); a 0.3km long route through the Scotston Car Park is located approximately 240m north of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development site. This Core Path provides a link between Old Rattray to Peterhead Core Path (7LD.01.18) and the on-road Scotston Head Road Link Core Path (L30R). It is considered that construction and operational visual impacts will be screened by existing intervening landform such that the Proposed Development Site is not visible (refer Appendix A; Figure 7.1). It is therefore predicted that no significant visual effects are to be experienced from this Core Path.

In relation to predicted visual impacts from Scotston Head Road Link Core Path (L30R); a 1.2km (approximately) long section of on road Core Path, linking St.Fergus with the Old Rattray to Peterhead Core Path Core Path (7LD.01.18) which is located approximately 340m north of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development site at its closest point, it is considered that construction and operational visual impacts will be screened by existing intervening vegetation for much of the route length. Where visible, construction operations will be perceived in southern views as a small, short term addition to the view, giving rise to a minor to moderate and not significant visual effect. Where visible in southern views, visible elements of the Proposed Development will be seen in a minor portion of the expansive panoramic view

available. Visible elements will often be viewed against a well vegetated backdrop, lessening visual intrusion, and set well below existing perceived horizons, giving rise to a minor to moderate and not significant effect.

In relation to predicted visual impacts from the St Fergus recreational ground path Core Path (217.02); a 0.34km long route to the west of St. Fergus, located approximately 1.2km west of the north-western boundary of the Proposed Development site it is considered that construction phase and operational phase impacts will be viewed at distance and often screened by existing coniferous shelterbelt planting such that visible elements will form a small portion of the view. It is judged that construction phase and operational phase impacts are small, giving rise to a minor to moderate and not significant visual effect upon localised sections of the Core Path.

1.6.2 Views from Transport Corridors

For the purposes of this assessment receptors on Class A roads have been considered as being of low sensitivity to change due to speed of travel and duration of views available.

Class A Roads

There is a single Class A Road that traverses the study area that is predicted to experience theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. The A90, forms the major vehicular route connecting Peterhead, in the south to St Fergus and Fraserburgh to the north, and traverses generally north – south through the study area. The A90 passes in close proximity to the western boundary of the Proposed Development Site and eastern views from the A90 are often restricted by a combination of coniferous shelterbelt planting, roadside vegetation, and localised topographical changes, with the North Sea not present in eastern views from the A90 generally. Views from the A90 are generally focused along the route of travel by vegetation and localised topographical changes, with timber poles carrying overhead lines, stacks and infrastructure associated with the St Fergus Gas Terminal, operational wind turbines at Bruxiehill and tall pylons carrying overhead lines form strong visual draws in views.

When travelling on the A90, views towards the Proposed Development Site are often screened by scattered roadside vegetation, vegetation adjacent to residential property access tracks and intervening shelterbelt planting, such that the Proposed Development is only experienced occasionally in peripheral views (refer Appendix A, Figures 8 - 10 for representative views) for short duration. Whilst the Proposed Development site is visible at close distance to the A90 for limited portions of the journey, existing roadside vegetation restricts visibility to glimpsed, peripheral views and views of the Proposed Development will be mitigated by proposed boundary hedgerow and woodland planting. Predicted Visual impacts are judged to be localised and large, for both the construction phase and operational phases of the Proposed Development giving rise to a minor to moderate and not significant visual effect upon road users on the A90, which are predicted to reduce to minor and not significant following the successful establishment of mitigation planting along western boundaries of the Proposed Development.

1.6.3 Views from Residential Receptors

As part of the visual effects assessment associated with the Proposed Development, an assessment of the predicted visual impacts on residential receptors that occur within proximity to the Proposed Development Site has been undertaken. A review of the properties lying within close proximity to the Site has identified that the following properties may experience potential views of the Proposed Development;

- South Kirkton, located adjacent to the southern portion of the Proposed Development Site;
- North Kirkton, located adjacent to north-western boundary of the Proposed Development Site;
- Inverquinzie Cottages, located approximately 80m west of the western boundary of the Proposed Development Site;
- South Scotston, located approximately 250m north of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development Site; and
- Scotston Villa, located approximately 860m north-west of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development Site.

Potential views from properties and residential clusters beyond those identified above are judged to be screened by existing shelterbelt planting, woodland cover, localised topographical changes and surrounding built form and are considered to experience no significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

For the purposes of this assessment residential receptors have been considered as being of high sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

The single residential property identified at South Kirkton, located adjacent to the southern portion of the Proposed Development Site includes a residential property and outbuildings, which are screened from views within the surrounding study area by shelterbelt planting along all boundaries of the site. Shelterbelt planting is primarily coniferous, with a focused view to the south-east available through a gap in the existing shelterbelt planting. It is noted that this south-eastern view is also further restricted by intervening landform immediately south of the property, which further restricts and focuses the view. The PV Panels, associated with the Proposed Development have been set back from northern and eastern boundaries (50m), western and southern boundaries (100m minimum) of this property in order to provide clear separation between the Proposed Development and the property. Proposed panels have also been pulled back from south-eastern areas, relating to the existing landform, to maintain the existing view from the property. It is considered that construction phase operations will be partially visible in a minor portion of the south-eastern view, whilst solar PV panels and inverter station will be perceived in southern views during the operational phase. It is judged that operational phase visual impacts will be localised and small, giving rise to a minor to moderate, assessed as not significant effect on a minor portion of the south-eastern view available from the property.

The property at North Kirkton, located adjacent to the access track to St Fergus cemetery has a primary view south due to the orientation of the property, however south-eastern views are partially screened by existing vegetation adjacent to the laneway and close proximity of farm outbuildings. Views to the west are screened by existing shelterbelt planting whilst northern and eastern views are partially screened by existing vegetation along the boundaries of the property and adjacent farm buildings. Proposed PV Panels associated with the Proposed Development are set back from the northern and western boundaries by 25m to 50m to provide a clear separation. PV Panels to the south, have also been located to minimise visual impact on southern and south-eastern views. It is judged that construction phase operations will be partially visible within a minor portion of the south-eastern view from the property, whilst solar PV panels will be visible in a minor portion of the south-eastern view during the operational phase. It is judged that operational phase visual impacts will be localised and small, giving rise to a minor to moderate, effect prior to the successful establishment of mitigation planting along the access track and western field boundary.

The cluster of properties at Inverquinzie Cottages, located approximately 80m west of the western boundary of the Proposed Development site, comprise a cluster of residential properties and associated outbuildings which include garages. It is noted that these properties are located on an elevated portion of land, with many of the properties orientated to have main views north and north-west. Southern views from the majority of the properties are limited by close built form associated with adjacent residential properties, with more open southern views experienced from a single property, Carleena, though views to the south and south-east from this property are partially restricted by garden boundary vegetation. It is judged that construction phase operations will be partially visible within south-eastern views from the property, whilst solar PV panels will be visible in south-eastern views during the operational phase. It is judged that operational phase visual impacts will be localised and small, giving rise to a minor to moderate, effect prior to the successful establishment of mitigation planting along the access track and western field boundary.

The single property identified at South Scotston, located approximately 250m north of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development Site, is considered to have peripheral views southeast of the Proposed Development due to its orientation, however such views are partially screened by existing vegetation associated with the property boundary. It is judged that construction phase and operational phase visual impacts will be small, giving rise to a minor to moderate, assessed as not significant visual effect.

The single property identified at Scotston Villa is located approximately 860m north-west of the northern boundary of the Proposed Development Site and is primarily orientated north-south with south-eastern views towards the Proposed Development partially screened by existing boundary vegetation. Intervening coniferous shelterbelt planting further screens the Proposed Development Site in southern views. It is judged that construction phase and operational phase visual impacts will be negligible, giving rise to a minor and not significant visual effect.

1.7 Cumulative Impacts

As previously discussed, at Section 1.5, moderate to major, localised direct effects are predicted to occur within the portion of the Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire (LCT 12) contained by the site boundary, though such effects are localised and limited in their extent by topographical changes and vegetation cover.

In relation to permitted and proposed developments identified in Table 1.7 previously, the following identified developments have been assessed for cumulative impacts. It is noted, that where relevant these developments may have been subject to their own LVIA assessments.

Approved Developments

With regards to the proposed development (APP/2018/1416), which was approved in July 2018; a review of currently available information has been undertaken. This proposal relates to alterations and extensions to an existing residential property and erection of carport. The application site lies near the Proposed Development Site boundary within the southern portion of the Site and is associated with the residential property identified as South Kirkton. It is considered that the magnitude of cumulative landscape impact associated with the Proposed Development in combination with this approved development will be direct and negligible, which in this case would give rise to a minor and not significant cumulative effect on this high sensitivity LCT and Special Landscape Area as the proposed development (APP/2018/1416), is contained within the existing curtilage of South Kirkton, which is generally not visible from the surrounding landscape due to screening by coniferous planting along the property boundaries.

Proposed Developments

With regards to the proposed development (ENQ/2020/0931), it is considered that there will be a direct effect upon those portions of the Beaches, Dunes and Links - Aberdeenshire LCT directly affected by this proposed development. This proposed development relates to the construction and operation of a carbon capture, compression and conditioning plant with associated infrastructure, which is to be located across two potential development areas within the existing St Fergus Gas Terminal complex. The proposed southern development area is located approximately 1.4km north of the Proposed Development Site. It is considered that the magnitude of cumulative landscape impact associated with the Proposed Development in combination with this approved development will be direct and small, which in this case would give rise to a minor to moderate and not significant cumulative effect on this high sensitivity LCT and Special Landscape Area as the proposed development (ENQ/2020/0931), is contained within the existing St Fergus Gas Terminal.

In relation to predicted cumulative visual impacts arising as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with the above, it is judged that the Proposed Development would not generally be visible in combination with the approved development due to intervening vegetation and localised topographical changes. In summary, potential cumulative visual effects are judged to be negligible and not significant.

In summary when considering the Proposed Development in combination with proposed and future development in proximity to the Proposed Development there will be no significant cumulative landscape or visual impact.

1.8 Mitigation

1.8.1 Landscaping Aims and Objectives

Mitigation measures are those taken to help reduce the impacts arising from any visually intrusive or insensitive elements within existing landscape setting. The below text sets out the aims of proposed landscape mitigation but the role of the landscape architect in design evolution must also be noted. This manifested in inter-alia removal of panels from landscape heights and undulations as well as further infrastructure removal and incorporation of set-backs to assist in overall integration and in minimising any landscape and visual impacts. Only when the layout was deemed robust and acceptable in these terms was mitigation proposed.

Landscaping Aims

- To supplement the existing landscape features to further physically and visually integrate the Proposed Development and associated infrastructure into surrounding landscape; and
- Provide suitable screening to minimise visual intrusion, particularly in views from the A90, close residential receptors and local areas of interest to reduce significant effects regarding the visual impact of the proposal and associated structures on sensitive receptors

General Objectives

- Retention of existing boundary hedgerows, trees, shelterbelt planting and roadside vegetation on peripheral and internal boundaries in accordance with BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations.
- Larger sized trees and shrubs to be planted within localised areas in order to reduce visual impacts and provide instant impact.
- Mitigation should be in keeping with the existing landscape. Therefore, mixed species hedgerows and areas of mixed species woodland are considered acceptable and appropriate to the landscape.
- Selection of locally appropriate deciduous and coniferous tree, hedge and shrub species will be made to ensure successful plant establishment and to maintain and increase biodiversity whilst providing visual screening of the proposed development year-round.
- Strengthening of existing vegetated internal boundaries, boundaries adjacent to existing access laneways.

1.8.2 Planting

Plant Mixes

Select Standard Tree Planting

Visual impact to be provided by planting larger nursery stock trees such as: *Quercus robur* (Oak) and *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder) within areas of proposed woodland mix planting. Final planting locations will be carefully chosen to maximise visual screening of the Proposed Development within views predicted to experience significant visual effects.

Screen woodland Planting

Planting mixtures will be comprised of locally appropriate shrub species and will be composed to match existing woodland planting within the local. Species will include evergreen species such as *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly) and *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine) together with deciduous species such as *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) and *Sambucus nigra* (Elder).

Hedgerows

Hedgerow enhancement will be provided by planting species such as; *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly), *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn), *Corylus avellana* (Hazel), *Sambucus nigra* (Elder) within existing hedgerows and as new hedgerows along field boundaries defined by post and wire fencing. New hedgerows will be planted with 6Nr. native species per 30m length, creating new species rich hedgerows.

1.8.3 Monitoring and Maintenance

Maintenance of the landscape works will be an integral part of the on-going site management. This will include a defects liability period during which any defective plant material (as stated above) is to be replaced. Litter picking and weed control shall be carefully monitored during the early growing seasons of the landscape maintenance contract. Contractors will comply with all health and safety standards, in particular regard to maintenance works during the operational phase of the proposed solar farm.

1.9 Residual Impact

This section of the report assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on the landscape character and assessment viewpoints after the identified mitigation measures, described above, have been implemented and successfully established.

1.9.1 Residual Landscape Impact

As previously identified, localised moderate to major, direct effects are predicted for land within the site boundary prior to the successful establishment of mitigation planting. The proposed, locally appropriate,

native tree and shrub planting identified above will in general help to integrate the Proposed Development with the surrounding vernacular, such that it will become an integrated component of the landscape. The predicted residual landscape impacts are summarised in Table 1.21 below.

Table 1.21: Residual Landscape Character Impacts

Landscape Character Area/ Landscape Designation	Predicted Construction Phase Landscape Effects	Predicted Operational Phase Landscape Effects
Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire LCT	Moderate, localised long term, assessed as significant	Minor, localised long term assessed as not significant
North East Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area	Moderate, localised long term, assessed as significant	Minor, localised long term assessed as not significant

1.9.2 Residual Visual Impact

This section assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on visual receptors (assessed in Section 1.6 and illustrated in Appendix A) after mitigation measures have been implemented (described Section 1.8 above).

Many of the assessed viewpoints have limited or no visibility of the Proposed Development site due to intervening landscape features, shelterbelt planting and localised topographical features. Mitigation measures have been proposed along portions of the western and eastern boundaries of the site to negate the impacts on localised views of the Proposed Development from the A90 and St Fergus Cemetery. Further mitigation measures are proposed along boundaries of existing residential properties that lie within close proximity to the Site in order to mitigate potential views of the Proposed Development.

Table 1.22: Residual Viewpoint Impacts

Viewpoint		Predicted Operational Phase Visual Effects before Mitigation	Predicted Operational Phase Visual Effects after Mitigation
1	Scotston Sand Dunes	Minor to moderate, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects	Minor, long term, assessed as not significant
2	Scotston Car Park	None	No Effect
3	St Fergus	Minor, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects	Negligible to minor
4a	A90 Inverquinzie Cottages	Localised moderate to major, long term, reversible effects assessed as significant visual effects	Moderate and not significant
4b	A90 Inverquinzie Cottages (View South east)	Localised minor, temporary, assessed as not significant, visual effects	Negligible to minor and not significant
5	St Fergus Cemetery	Major to substantial, short term, localised assessed as significant visual effects.	Moderate to major, assessed as not significant long term, reversible visual effects
6	Kinloch Road	Minor, temporary, assessed as not significant visual effects	Negligible to minor
7	Formartine and Buchan Way	None	No Effect
8	Buchanhaven, Peterhead	None	No Effect

1.10 Conclusion

The Proposed Development is located on a portion of land within the Aberdeenshire Council Area due east of the A90 and approximately 1.2km southeast of St.Fergus Village, Peterhead. The Proposed Development Site is wholly located within the Beaches, Dunes and Links – Aberdeenshire LCT, which has been predicted to experience localised, moderate to major, temporary adverse landscape impacts during the construction phase, with localised, moderate long term effects arising as a consequence of the Proposed Development prior to the successful establishment of mitigation planting on eastern and western boundaries of the site.

The Proposed Development Site is also wholly located within a minor, southern portion of the North East Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area which is influenced locally by the existing Gas Terminal at St Fergus and operational turbines in close proximity. Similar to the predicted landscape effects the localised portions of the Special Landscape Area contained by the Proposed Development Site boundary are predicted to experience moderate to major, temporary adverse landscape impacts during the construction phase, with localised, moderate long term effects arising as a consequence of the Proposed Development prior to the successful establishment of mitigation planting on eastern and western boundaries of the site.

Views from a total of 8 viewpoints have been assessed, for both construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. Localised significant visual effects are predicted to occur for a small portion of the overall view available from the A90 and from a single viewpoint adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site at St Fergus Cemetery of the site boundary. Predicted visual effects associated with the operational phase of the Proposed Development are considered to reduce upon successful implementation of mitigation planting to western and eastern boundaries of the site. Predicted effects, whilst considered to be long term are all reversible in nature.

Of the residential properties and property clusters assessed, no significant visual effects are predicted to occur for residential properties identified due to a combination of screening by intervening vegetation and localised topographical changes. Identified impacts have been assessed as reducing once proposed mitigation measures have been successfully implemented and established.

The assessment has considered cumulative effects, arising from the addition of the Proposed Development in combination with other proposed and potential developments within proximity. Predicted cumulative effects have been assessed as not significant.

Appendix A - Figures



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 5 km Study Area



Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road,
BELFAST, BT12 6RZ
T: 028 9066 7914

Client: **ELGIN ENERGY**

Project: Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility

Title: Project Study Area

Fig No: 1.0




Status: Final Date: March 2021
 Drawn: PM Ckd: SA






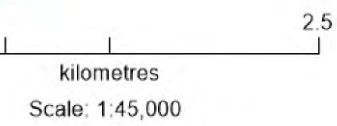
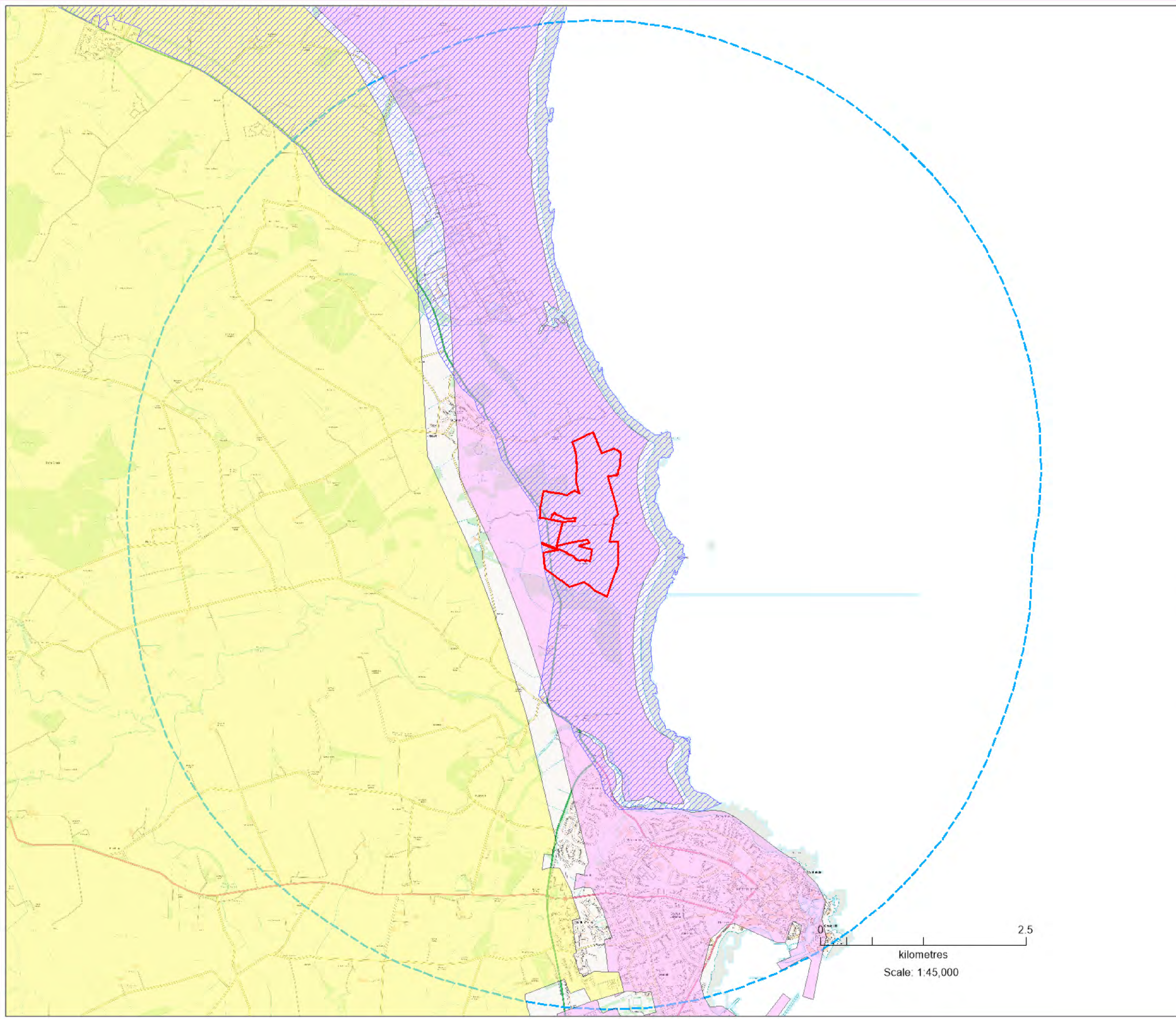
Projection OSGB36
Scale 1: 45,000 @ A3

RPS Project Number: NI 2290

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Special Landscape Areas
-  5 km Study Area

- Landscape Character Types**
-  Beaches, Dunes and Links
-  Coastal Agricultural Plain
-  Coastal Farmland



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Client:  **ELGIN ENERGY**

Project: Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility

Title: Landscape Character Areas

Fig No: 2.0

Status: Final Date: March 2021



Drawn: RT Ckd: SA










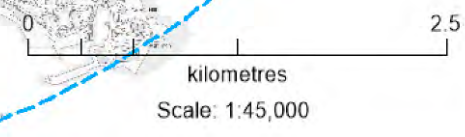
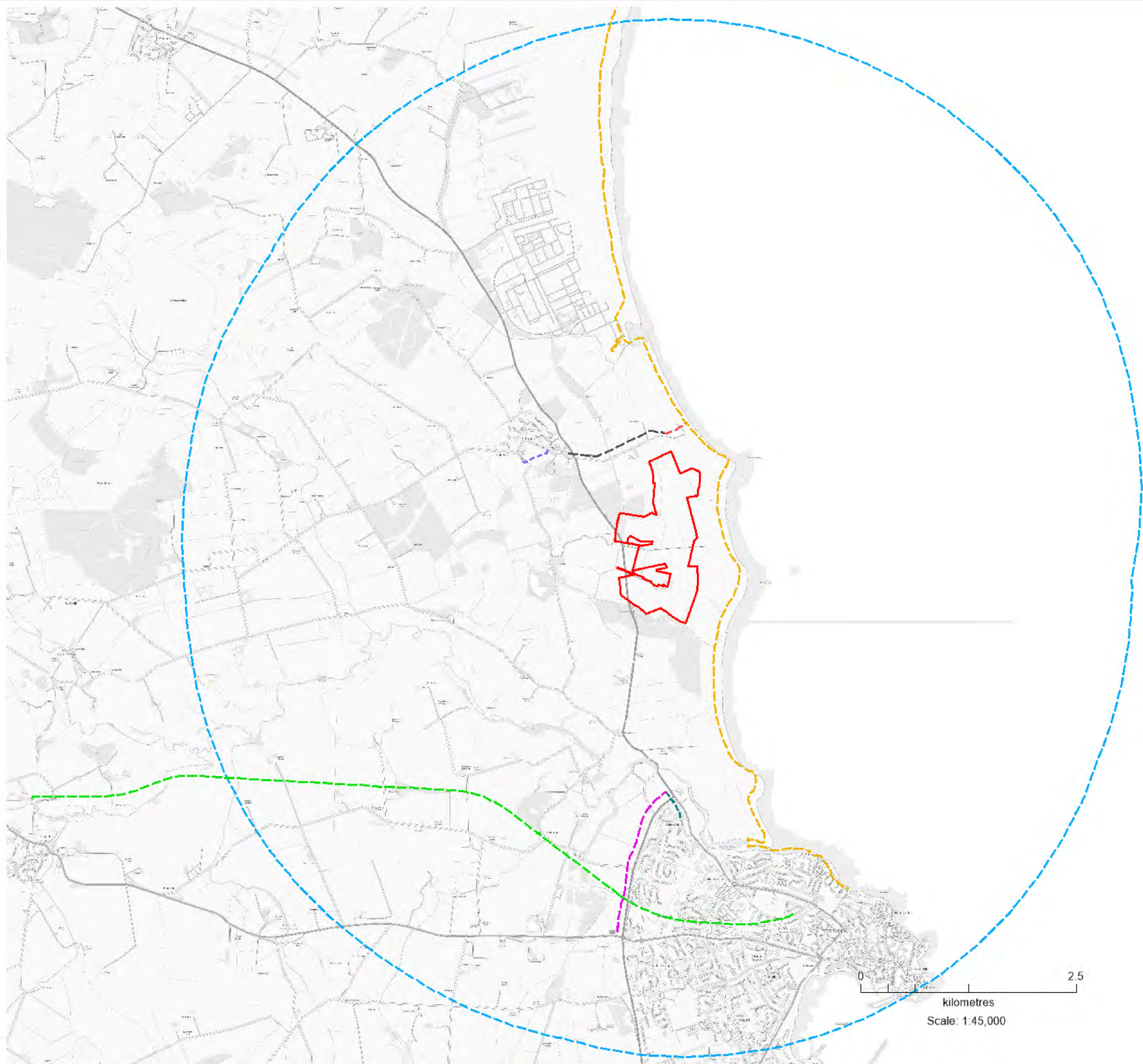
Projection OSGB 36
Scale 1: 45,000 @ A3

RPS Project Number: NI ####

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  5 km Study Area

-  A90 Cycleway
-  Coastal Path - Old Rattray to Peterhead
-  Formantine & Buchan Way
-  Scotstown Head Road Link
-  Scotstown Head Path
-  St Fergus Recreation Ground Path
-  Ugleside



Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road,
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Client:  ELGIN ENERGY

Project: Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility

Title: Core Paths

Fig No: 3.0


Status: Final Date: March 2021

Drawn: PM Ckd: SA



Projection OSGB 36
Scale 1: 45,000 @ A3
RPS Project Number: NI 2290

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  5 km Study Area
-  ZTV based on 2.8 m high solar panels

NOTE:
 The ZTV is based on bare-earth 25 m Digital Terrain Mapping and does not include for vegetation, buildings or other structural features which might screen the facility from view.



Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road,
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 T: 028 9066 7914

Client:  **ELGIN ENERGY**

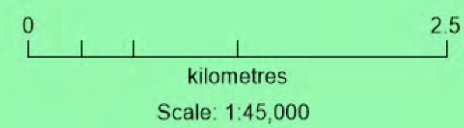
Project: Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility

Title: 5 km Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

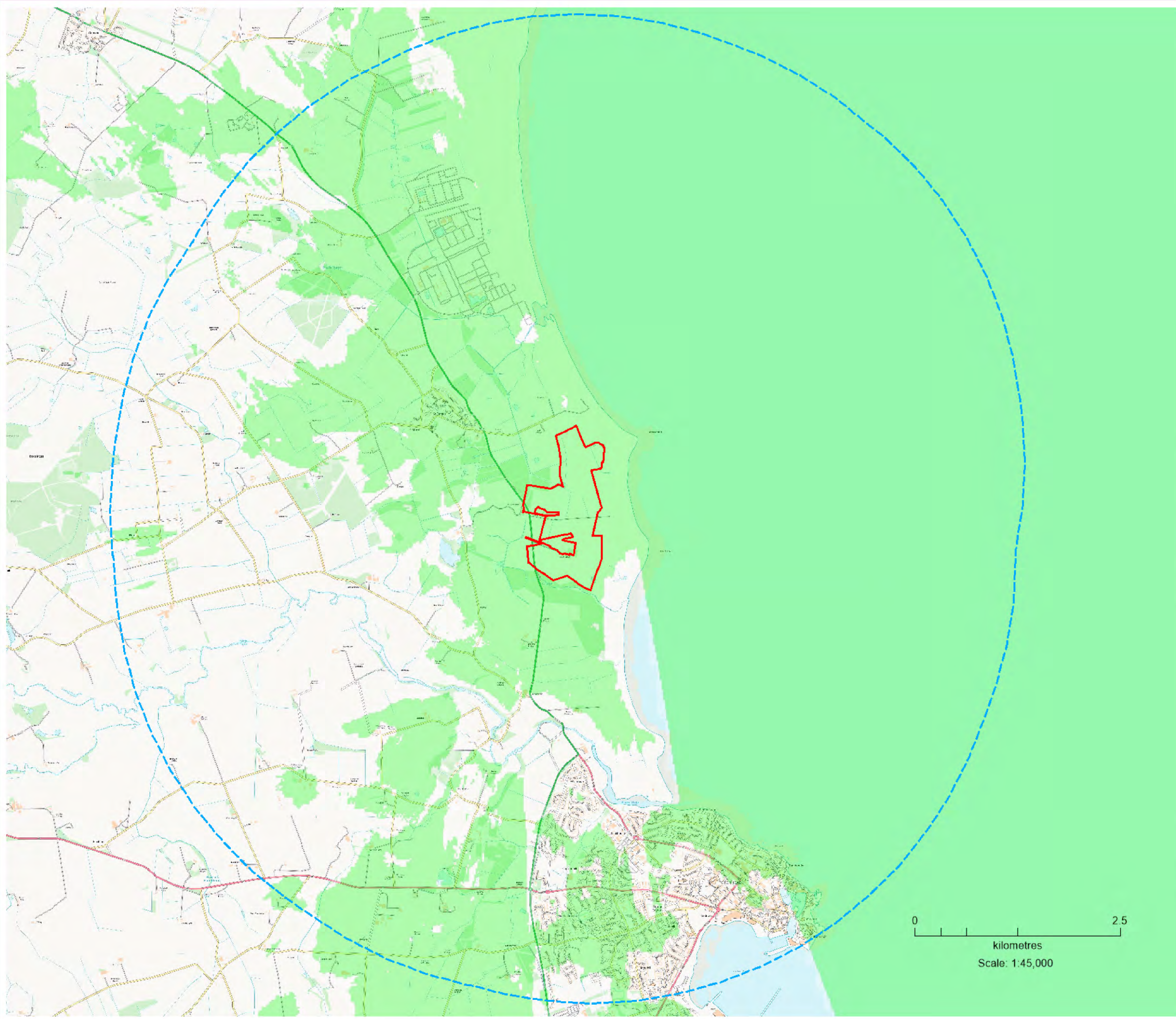
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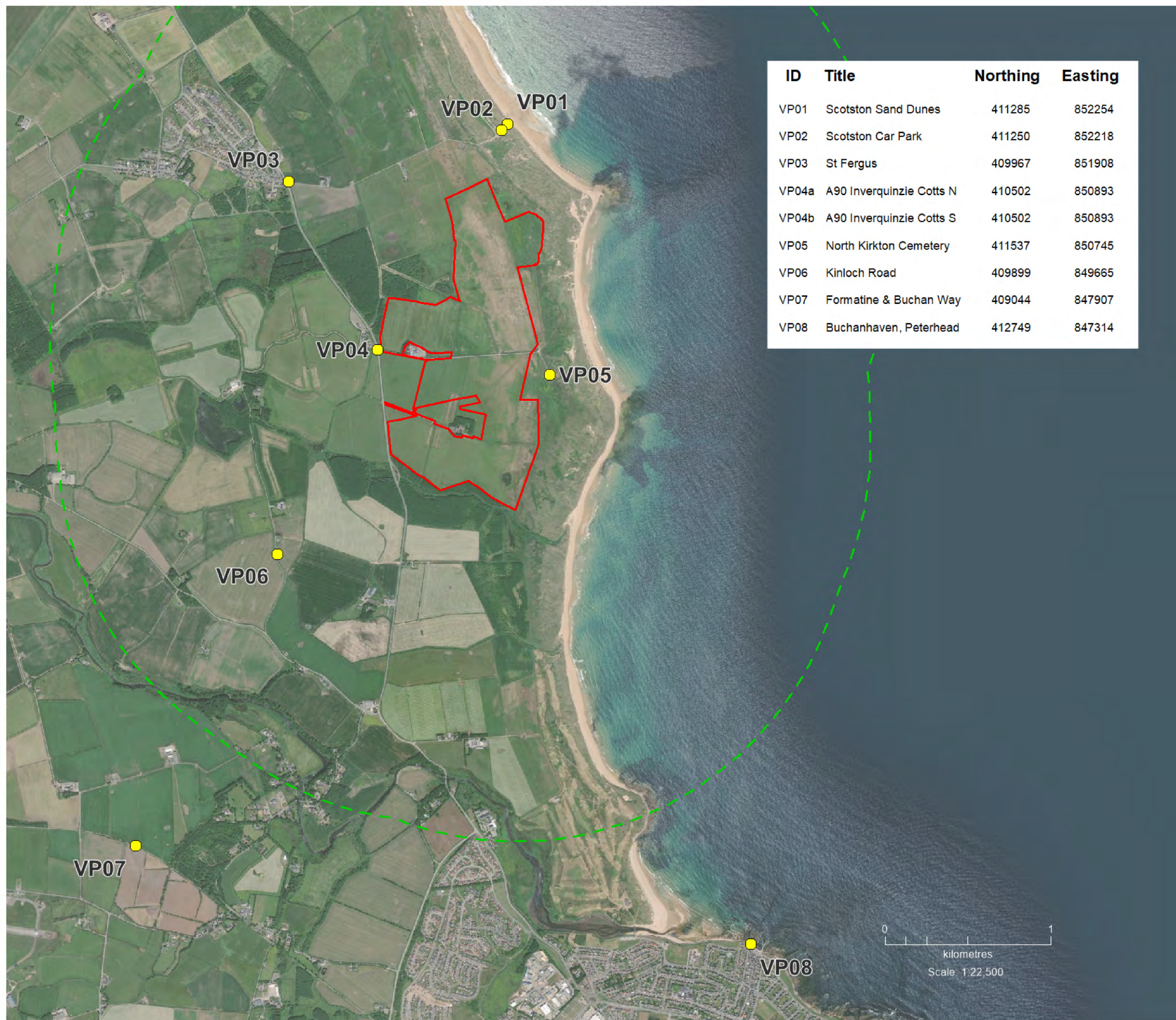
Status: Final Date: March 2021

Drawn: PM Ckd: SA



Projection OSGB 36
 Scale 1: 50,000 @ A3
RPS Project Number: NI 2290





ID	Title	Northing	Easting
VP01	Scotston Sand Dunes	411285	852254
VP02	Scotston Car Park	411250	852218
VP03	St Fergus	409967	851908
VP04a	A90 Inverquinzie Cotts N	410502	850893
VP04b	A90 Inverquinzie Cotts S	410502	850893
VP05	North Kirkton Cemetery	411537	850745
VP06	Kinloch Road	409899	849665
VP07	Formatine & Buchan Way	409044	847907
VP08	Buchanhaven, Peterhead	412749	847314

Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2 km Buffer
- Viewpoint



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Client: **ELGIN ENERGY**

Project: Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility

Title: Viewpoints

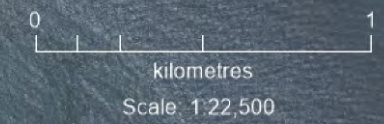
Fig No: 5.0

Status: Final Date: March 2021

Drawn: PM Ckd: SA



Projection OSGB 36
Scale 1: 22,500 @ A3
RPS Project Number: NI 2290





Baseline image



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	411285
Date	21.11.20 - 10.10	Northing	852254
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	198°
Field of View	90 °	Distance	350 m

Title:
**VP01 - Scotston Sand Dunes
 Baseline**

Figure 6.0	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
 & Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Photomontage



Map Image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	411285
Date	21.11.20 - 10.10	Northing	852254
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	198°
Field of View	90°	Distance	350 m

Title:	VP01 - Scotston Sand Dunes Photomontage
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Figure 6.1	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:	Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility
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Client:	
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Extent of development - no visibility



Baseline + development



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	411250
Date	21.11.20 - 11.20	Northing	852218
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	197°
Field of View	90 °	Distance	310 m

Title:	VP02 - Scotston Car Park Baseline & development area
--------	---

Figure 7.0	Drawn by: PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked: SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref: NI 2290
Status: Final	Date: Mar 2021

Project:	Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility
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Client:	
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 MAKING COMPLEX EASY
 Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road
 BELFAST, BT12 6RZ
 028 9066 7914



Baseline image



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	409967
Date	21.11.20 - 11.20	Northing	851908
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	124°
Field of View	90°	Distance	910 m

Title:
**VP03 - St Fergus
Baseline**

Figure 8.0	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
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Client:



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Photomontage



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	409967
Date	21.11.20 - 11.20	Northing	851908
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	124°
Field of View	90°	Distance	910 m

Title:
**VP03 - St Fergus
Photomontage**

Figure 8.1	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
& Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Baseline image



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	410502
Date	21.11.20 - 10.0	Northing	850893
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	46°
Field of View	90°	Distance	30 m

Title:
**VP04 - A90 Inverquinzie Cotts N
 Baseline**

Figure 9.0	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
 & Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Photomontage



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	410502
Date	21.11.20 - 10.0	Northing	850893
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	46°
Field of View	90°	Distance	30 m

Title:
**VP04 - A90 Inverquinzie Cotts N
 Photomontage**

Figure 9.1	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
 & Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Photomontage with planting



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	410502
Date	21.11.20 - 10.0	Northing	850893
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	46°
Field of View	90 °	Distance	30 m

Title:
VP04 - A90 Inverquinzie Cotts N
 Photomontage with Planting

Figure 9.2	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
Kirkton Solar PV
 & Energy Storage Facility

Client:





Baseline image



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	410502
Date	21.11.20 - 10.0	Northing	850893
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	136°
Field of View	90°	Distance	30 m

Title:	
VP04a - A90 Inverquinzie Cottis S	
Baseline	

Figure 10.0	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:	Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility
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Client:	
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 MAKING COMPLEX EASY
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Photomontage



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	410502
Date	21.11.20 - 10.0	Northing	850893
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	136°
Field of View	90°	Distance	30 m

Title:	VP04a - A90 Inverquinzie Cottis S Photomontage
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Figure 10.1	Drawn by: PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked: SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref: NI 2290
Status: Final	Date: Mar 2021

Project:	Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility
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Client:	
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Photomontage with planting



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	410502
Date	21.11.20 - 10.0	Northing	850893
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	136°
Field of View	90°	Distance	30 m

Title:
VP04a - A90 Inverquinzie Cotts S
 Photomontage with Planting

Figure 10.2	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
Kirkton Solar PV
 & Energy Storage Facility

Client:





Baseline image



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	411537
Date	21.11.20 - 09.30	Northing	850745
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	227°
Field of View	90 °	Distance	150 m

Title:	VP05 - North Kirkton Cemetery Baseline
--------	---

Figure 11.0	Drawn by: PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked: SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref: NI 2290
Status: Final	Date: Mar 2021

Project:	Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility
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Client:	
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 MAKING COMPLEX EASY
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 BELFAST, BT12 6RZ
 028 9066 7914



Photomontage



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	411537
Date	21.11.20 - 09.30	Northing	850745
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	227°
Field of View	90°	Distance	150 m

Title:
**VP05 - North Kirkton Cemetery
 Photomontage**

Figure 11.1	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
 & Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Photomontage with planting



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	411537
Date	21.11.20 - 09.30	Northing	850745
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	227°
Field of View	90°	Distance	150 m

Title:
**VP05 - North Kirkton Cemetery
 Photomontage with Planting**

Figure 11.2	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
 & Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Baseline image



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	409899
Date	21.11.20 - 11.00	Northing	849665
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	65°
Field of View	90°	Distance	910 m

Title:
**VP06 - Kinloch Road
Baseline**

Figure 12.0	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
& Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Photomontage



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	409899
Date	21.11.20 - 11.00	Northing	849665
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	65°
Field of View	90°	Distance	910 m

Title:
**VP06 - Kinloch Road
Photomontage**

Figure 12.1	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

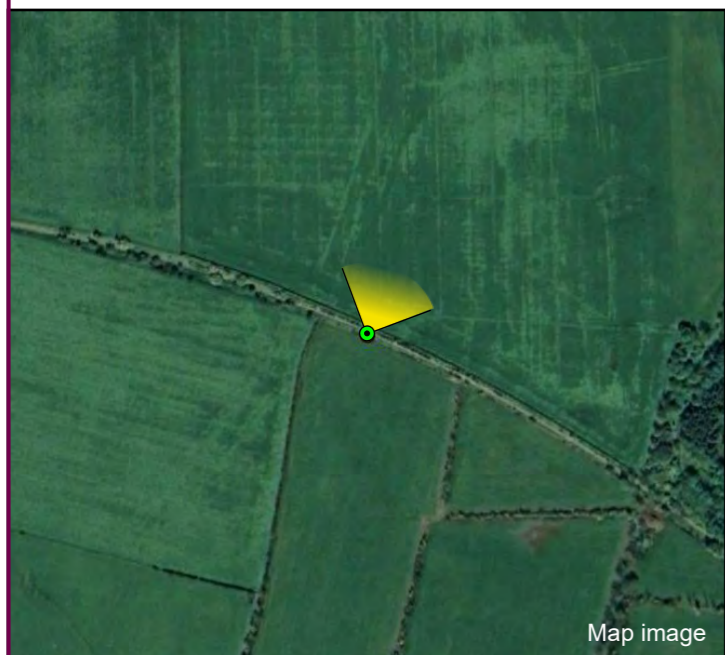
Project:
**Kirkton Solar PV
& Energy Storage Facility**

Client:





Baseline + development



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	409044
Date	21.11.20 - 12.13	Northing	847907
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	28°
Field of View	90 °	Distance	2800 m

Title:
VP07 - Formatine & Buchan Way
Baseline & development area

Figure 13.0	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:
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& Energy Storage Facility

Client:



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BELFAST, BT12 6RZ
028 9066 7914



Baseline + development



Map image



Tripod location

Camera	Nikon D600	Easting	412749
Date	21.11.20 - 11.35	Northing	847314
View height	1.56 m AGL	Direction	334°
Field of View	90 °	Distance	2900 m

Title:	VP08 - Buchanhaven, Peterhead Baseline & development area
--------	--

Figure 13.0	Drawn by:	PM
Projection: OSGB36	Checked:	SA
Data Source: RPS 2020	Job Ref:	NI 2290
Status: Final	Date:	Mar 2021

Project:	Kirkton Solar PV & Energy Storage Facility
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Client:	
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