

## APPENDIX 11.5: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity of the two host Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) where there would be physical changes to the landscape fabric is detailed below. An assessment of sensitivity for non-host LCAs is included within Chapter 11. Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular form of change likely to result from the proposed Scout Moor II Wind Farm (hereafter, the 'Project for Assessment'). The assessment text relates to sensitivity of the landscape receptor as a whole, to the Project for Assessment, with additional comments regarding the Assessment Boundary where relevant. In the main this has been taken from the South Pennines Wind Energy Landscape Study (2014) and Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study (2018). (quotes shown in *italics*). The table below is based on guidance provided within the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note for Assessing Landscape Value Outside of National Designations, 2021 (LI TGN 02/21) - specifically Table 1 within that document.

### Host Landscape: LCA A1: South Pennine Moors

| Factors affecting sensitivity       | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                      | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                      | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Judgement                                              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Value attached to Landscapes</b> |                                                                       |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                        |
| Designated scenic quality           | No specific designation                                               | National or regional designation                                       | No national or local landscape designations within the host unit of this LCA.<br><br>The other units of this LCA coincide with the Calderdale Special Landscape Area                                                                                                                                          | Host unit Community<br>Noting Regional for other units |
| Natural Heritage                    | Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest. | High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest. | There are some more valued habitats associated with the moorland including blanket bog, heather and moor within this landscape.<br><br><i>"The moorland contains a wealth of natural and cultural -features and forms the- -main part- of the SPA supporting internationally important bird populations."</i> | Regional                                               |

| Factors affecting sensitivity | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                                                                     | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                                                                                            | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Judgement           |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cultural Heritage             | Low presence of archaeology or historical interests                                                                                                                  | High presence of archaeology or historical interests                                                                                                                                         | <p><i>“Important archaeological landscape with much prehistoric interest. The blanket bog is a significant archaeological and paleoenvironmental resource.</i></p> <p><i>The enclosed landscape contains a number of historic settlements, many of which are designated as Conservation Areas with clusters of Listed Buildings, including prominent churches.”</i></p> | Regional            |
| Landscape condition/ quality  | Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements                                                                                                        | Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements                                                                                                                   | The landscape quality of the moorland is variable and within the host unit is mixed with areas of degraded peatland and some quarries within this LCA. Many of units of this LCA are host to existing wind turbines.                                                                                                                                                    | Regional/ Community |
| Cultural associations         | No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.                                                                                                      | Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.                                                                     | <p><i>‘The novels of Wuthering Heights and Jane Eyre, among others, create an extraordinary literary landscape with a strong image in the minds of people worldwide.’</i> Whilst this reference occurs within the Yorkshire Moors, the host unit is a small area compared to other parts of this LCA.</p>                                                               | National/ Regional  |
| Distinctiveness               | Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement. | Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement. | The vast uninhabited moorland around Oxenhope Moor and Boulsworth Hill and sharp edges of the high moorland plateau are visually prominent form a distinctives backdrop to surrounding settlements in some locations.                                                                                                                                                   | Regional            |

| Factors affecting sensitivity          | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                               | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                                                                                                           | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Judgement                                  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Amenity and recreation                 | Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important                           | Well-used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long-distance routes. | This is a well-used landscape for recreation. The host unit has extensive Public Rights of Way, areas of Common Land and both regional and National Trails including the Pennine Bridleway where elevated views across the landscape are important to the recreational experience. | National/ Regional                         |
| Perceptual (Scenic)                    | Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.                                                           | Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.                                                                                                                                              | This landscape comprises large scale sweeping open <i>“landscape with strong skyline ridges and expansive views”</i> in some parts of this LCA but in other parts the skylines are less distinctive.                                                                               | Regional                                   |
| Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity) | Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.                                                                | Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.                                                                                                                                                   | The scale and sweeping nature of the landscape offers a <i>“sense of remoteness, isolation and wildness. These special perceptual qualities are reinforced by the proximity to the surrounding urban areas and intersecting industrial valleys.”</i>                               | Community                                  |
| Function                               | No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation. | Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.                                                                   | For this LCA as a whole, the moorland forms the main part of the SPA and is an important green infrastructure resource. However, locally the peatland is degraded in places which lowers its functional value.                                                                     | Host is Community but more widely Regional |
| <b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>      |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Regional/Community for the host</b>     |
|                                        |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |

| Factors affecting sensitivity | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                       | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Judgement                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Susceptibility</b>         |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                             |
| Scale                         | Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive. | Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures. | This is a large scale sweeping open landscape with strong skylines where existing turbines Scout Moor are noticeable features.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Medium for the host which is a smaller unit than other parts of this LCA which would be Low |
| Landform                      | Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes                                                              | Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes                                                 | Landform is smooth and flowing on the host unit and more widely comprises of <i>“long high plateau extending from Rishworth Moor in the south to the vast expansive sweep of high uninhabited moorland around Oxenhope Moor and Boulsworth Hill in the north.”</i>                                                                                                                | Low                                                                                         |
| Openness/enclosure            | Open and exposed landscapes                                                                                     | Enclosed and sheltered landscapes                                                       | This is a large scale open landscape and exposed plateau landscape with limited vegetation beyond moorland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Low                                                                                         |
| Land cover                    | Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)                       | Complex, intimate or mosaic cover                                                       | The landscape consists of extensive areas of disturbed moorland.<br><i>Higher elevations characterised by unenclosed open moorland used for rough grazing (predominantly by sheep). Large-scale wind farms occupy some of the higher moorland areas, notably Knowl Moor (Scout Moor Wind Farm) and Shore Moor. A military Danger Zone is located on the edge of Holcombe Moor</i> | Low                                                                                         |
| Complexity and patterns       | Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns                                                          | Complex or irregular patterns                                                           | This is a sweeping landscape with a simple landscape pattern across the most of this area with some areas of more complexity where the areas are smaller.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Medium/Low                                                                                  |

| Factors affecting sensitivity                                    | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                       | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                           | Explanation                                                                                                                                                       | Judgement         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Built Environment                                                | Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements | Established, traditional or historic built character                        | Existing turbines at Scout Moor, Reaps Moss, Todmorden and Crook Hill are notable elements within this landscape. There are no settlements within this landscape. | Low               |
| Views intervisibility                                            | Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views                            | Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.                | Views from access land and recreational routes within this landscape tend to be extensive across strong skyline ridges.                                           | Medium            |
| Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points | Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon                 | Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline | This landscape forms a distinctive upland backdrop and skyline to the surrounding settled valleys.                                                                | Medium            |
| <b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>                       |                                                                                        |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Medium/Low</b> |
| <b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity</b>                          |                                                                                        |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Medium/Low</b> |

#### Landscape: LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills

| Factors affecting sensitivity       | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                      | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                      | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                    | Judgement |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Value attached to Landscapes</b> |                                                                       |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                |           |
| Designated scenic quality           | No specific designation                                               | National or regional designation                                       | No national or local landscape designations.                                                                                                                                   | Community |
| Natural Heritage                    | Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest. | High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest. | There is some presence of ecological features of importance<br><i>"Rich mosaic of upland habitats including heather moorland, blanket bog, acid grassland and wet and dry"</i> | Regional  |

| Factors affecting sensitivity | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                              | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                          | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Judgement |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                               |                                                               |                                                                            | <i>heathland. Extensive areas are internationally or nationally designated for their nature conservation value, including the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC/SSSI/SBI and West Pennine Moors SSSI."</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |           |
| Cultural Heritage             | Low presence of archaeology or historical interests           | High presence of archaeology or historical interests                       | <p>There is some presence of cultural features of importance and association.</p> <p><i>Important archaeological landscape containing Scheduled remains including a Blackstone Edge Roman Road... The peat deposits on the uplands are also likely to contain a rich record of preserved prehistoric archaeology...Evidence of the industrial heritage of the area, with numerous disused quarries and mines.</i></p> <p><i>Inspirational landscape, with well-known cultural associations..."</i></p> | Regional  |
| Landscape condition/ quality  | Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements | Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements | <p><i>'Upland fringes comprise semi-improved grassland pasture enclosed by a network of gritstone walls (with some replacement by post and wire fencing). Enclosures form a patchwork of small irregular and larger rectangular fields, including Parliamentary enclosures.'</i></p> <p><i>'Past and present quarrying activity has left frequent imprints on the landscape. A number of these sites</i></p>                                                                                           | Community |

| Factors affecting sensitivity | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                                                                     | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                                                                                            | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Judgement |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                              | <i>have been restored as semi-natural habitat and some serve as destinations for recreational activity."</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           |
| Cultural associations         | No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.                                                                                                      | Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.                                                                     | <p><i>'Important archaeological landscape containing Scheduled remains including a Blackstone Edge Roman Road...The peat deposits on the uplands are also likely to contain a rich record of preserved prehistoric archaeology.'</i></p> <p><i>'Evidence of the industrial heritage of the area, with numerous disused quarries and mines.'</i></p> <p><i>'The enclosed landscape contains a number of historic settlements, many of which are designated as Conservation Areas with clusters of Listed Buildings, including prominent churches.'</i></p> | Regional  |
| Distinctiveness               | Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement. | Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement. | Landscape elements are commonplace and it includes combinations of features and elements that may be found in other geographical areas associated with former industrial development and operational wind turbines, scattered farmsteads and sparse road network.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Community |
| Amenity and recreation        | Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important                                                                                 | Well-used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National                        | This is a well-used landscape for recreation with Public Rights of Way and trails including the Rossendale Way and Rochdale Way and a small                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Regional  |

| Factors affecting sensitivity          | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                               | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                                         | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Judgement                 |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                        |                                                                                                                | Trails or other long distance routes.                                                                                                     | part of the Pennine Bridleway across the host unit.<br><i>“Reservoirs also form valued recreational destinations with visitor facilities, including Watergrove Reservoir and Ogden Reservoir.”</i>                                                             |                           |
| Perceptual (Scenic)                    | Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.                                                           | Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.                                                                            | <i>‘The landscape evokes a strongly rural, remote and continuation of character of the Pennine uplands’</i><br><i>‘The landscape is strongly influenced by the changeable weather conditions.’</i> Operational wind turbines have an influence this landscape. | Regional/ Community       |
| Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity) | Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.                                                                | Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.                                                                                 | Whilst there are no settlements within this landscape and the core area of the upland moor offers some tranquillity albeit moderated by the presence of SMWF and the proximity to large settlements.                                                           | Community                 |
| Function                               | No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation. | Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation. | Typical green infrastructure elements include small commonplace <i>“Tracts of broadleaved woodland clothe the sides of valleys. Trees also feature along field boundaries within the enclosed upland fringe.”</i>                                              | Community                 |
| <b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>      |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Regional/Community</b> |
|                                        |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                           |

| Factors affecting sensitivity | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                                                | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                       | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Judgement  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Susceptibility</b>         |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |            |
| Scale                         | Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive. | Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures. | This is a large scale upland plateau landscape, but is mixed in places, particularly in the fringes and foothills parts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Medium     |
| Landform                      | Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes                                                              | Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes                                                 | Landform comprises of an elevated, smooth and sweeping moorland plateau with fringe and foothill elements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Medium/Low |
| Openness/enclosure            | Open and exposed landscapes                                                                                     | Enclosed and sheltered landscapes                                                       | Open unenclosed uplands have a strong influence on character.<br><i>"This landscape is often associated with a sense of openness, remoteness and isolation. This perception can be broken in places by views of urban development and the presence of intrusive modern features including the M62 motorway."</i> There are small areas of enclosure within the fringes. | Medium/Low |
| Land cover                    | Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry)                       | Complex, intimate or mosaic cover                                                       | Landcover is dominated by extensive areas of unenclosed moorland used for rough grazing.<br><i>"Large-scale wind farms occupy some of the higher moorland areas notably Knowl Moor"</i> .<br><i>"...woodland is sparse on the unenclosed uplands. Coniferous/mixed plantations are associated with reservoirs and</i>                                                   | Medium/Low |

| Factors affecting sensitivity                                    | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                                       | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy                                           | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Judgement  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                                                             | <i>quarries.</i> Landcover is more mixed in the fringes and foothills.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |            |
| Complexity and patterns                                          | Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns                                 | Complex or irregular patterns                                               | Large-scale upland habitats are more continuous landcover with more complexity within the fringes and foothills.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Medium/Low |
| Built Environment                                                | Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements | Established, traditional or historic built character                        | <i>"Wind turbines and pylons/overhead lines punctuate the mostly open and undeveloped skylines. Masts are a feature of higher ground and are occasionally found in clusters."</i><br>This LCA also includes several reservoirs.                                                                                                                    | Low        |
| Views intervisibility                                            | Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views                            | Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.                | <i>'Long, panoramic views are afforded by the high elevation of the landscape. There is often intervisibility with the dramatic Dark Peak moorlands of the Peak District National Park, particularly in the eastern parts of the LCT.'</i> Whilst there are views from this area, this landscape is not important in views from the Peak District. | Medium     |
| Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points | Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon                 | Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline | This upland landscape is widely visible from the surrounding valleys. The operational SMWF turbines are a noticeable feature on the skylines to the north, south and east. Knowl Hill is a local high point within this LCA                                                                                                                        | Medium     |

| Factors affecting sensitivity       | Lower Sensitivity to Wind Energy | Higher Sensitivity to Wind Energy | Explanation | Judgement  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Overall Judgement of Susceptibility |                                  |                                   |             | Medium/Low |
| Overall Judgement of Sensitivity    |                                  |                                   |             | Medium/Low |