

11. Landscape and Visual

Introduction

- 11.1 This Chapter reports the outcome of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects in relation to landscape and visual.
- 11.2 This Chapter describes the technical consultation that has been undertaken during the EIA and FEI, the scope of the assessment and assessment methodology and a summary of the baseline information that has informed the assessment.
- 11.3 In line with **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA**, the assessment reports on the likely significant environmental effects, the further mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects, or further enhance beneficial effects. The conclusions are provided both in terms of the effects and whether these are considered to be significant. The assessment of effects takes into consideration both primary and tertiary mitigation (see **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA** for further details).
- 11.4 This Chapter, and its associated **Figures 11.1 – 11.16, Visualisations** and **Appendices 11.1 – 11.7**, is intended to be read as part of the wider ES with particular reference to the introductory Chapters of this ES (**Chapters 1 – 5**), as well as **Chapter 12: Built Heritage**.
- 11.5 In addition, this Chapter should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 16: Assessment of Cumulative Effects**. However, the cumulative landscape and visual effects will be included in this chapter.

Summary of Consultation

2025 ES

- 11.6 The Project Team undertook an EIA Scoping exercise (described further under the ‘Scope of Assessment’ section below) in support of the 2025 ES, which included consultation with RMBC and RBC and other stakeholders. The outcomes of this process are documented in **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA** and **Appendices 2.1** and **2.2**.
- 11.7 **Table 11.1** provides an overview of the consultation that has been undertaken outside of the Scoping Process to inform the Project for Assessment and EIA, including the consideration of likely significant effects and the methodology for assessment.

Table 11.1: Summary of consultation relative to landscape and visual matters outside of Scoping prior to the 2025 ES

Body / organisation and contact details	Key comments	Application action
Natural England Landscape Enhancement Senior Advisor Email: correspondence 6 March – 31 March 2025	Natural England acknowledged that beyond the range of the proposed development to the Protected Landscapes of the Forest of Bowland and the Peak District, there is a significant reduction of the visual impact, and Nidderdale is unlikely to be affected. However, the Forest of Bowland, the Peak District National Park and Calderdale Special Landscape Area have been identified as potential likely significant effects and sensitive receptors. Natural England considers further assessment work is required to satisfy the effects / impacts and to enable mitigation where possible. It is likely that the outcome of further assessment will focus around the most sensible approach to location of the turbines within the development zones and this should be considered at the outset of the development of the LVIA.	This has been addressed by including an assessment of the potential effects on the Special Qualities of the Forest of Bowland National landscape, the Peak District National Park and Calderdale Special Landscape Area.

2026 FEI ES

- 11.8 Since the submission of the 2025 ES, the Applicant has been in receipt of a number of statutory and non-statutory consultation comments. Rossendale Council provided a specific response following the review of the LVIA submitted as part of the 2025 ES, which was undertaken by Land Use Consultants (LUC) and is dated January 2026. The response to that review is included in **Appendix 2.4** and indicates how aspects raised in the review regarding the LVIA have been addressed. The response to the suggested viewpoints is included in **Appendix 11.4: Viewpoint Analysis**. At the time of preparing the FEI, a response from Natural England to the submitted ES was not published.

Scope of the Assessment

- 11.9 An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to RMBC and RBC on 16th December 2024, as presented as **Appendix 2.1**. At the time of writing the ES (April 2025), no Scoping Opinion had been received with regard to landscape and visual matters.
- 11.10 Since the ES was submitted a review of the LVIA was prepared by LUC (as noted above). This concluded the LVIA in the ES was *'fit for purpose and complete enough to support an informed planning decision, subject to the following clarifications'*. A response to these clarifications is included in **Appendix 2.4**. For the most part, these clarifications did not

require any notable changes to the scope of the LVIA, but one new Viewpoint (no. 25) was added to illustrate the substation and a new **Appendix 11.7** is now included which includes a set of Illustrative Wirelines. Therefore, the scope of the assessment is similar to that submitted as part of the EIA Scoping Report with some minor updates to take account of the revised Project for Assessment and the comments received from LUC.

Effects Unlikely / Not Significant

11.11 The following effects were considered unlikely / not significant as part of the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**) and are not considered further in this Chapter:

- Changes to landscape character and visual amenity from the Electrical Grid Connection. The Project for Assessment proposes an alternative grid connection route (Option C), which differs from the routes considered as part of the EIA Scoping; as such, this has been re-appraised. On the basis of the nature, scale and routing of Option C, no new or materially different likely significant effects are anticipated beyond those previously identified as part of EIA Scoping. The conclusions of the Scoping Opinion in respect of the grid connection therefore remain valid and the effect remain not significant;
- Changes to landscape character and features of Landscape Character Types / Areas within 10km where the effects are unlikely to be significant which include: LCA D1 Calder Terrace, LCA D3 Forest of Trawden – Worsthorne Moor Fringe, LCA E4 Colne - Nelson – Burnley Fringe, LCA G3 Cliviger Gorge, LCA F2 Calder, LCT O Industrial/ Business Parks, LCT U Urban, LCA 2a West Pennine Moors, LCA 4c Blackburn Moorland Fringe, LCA 6b West Pennine Foothills, LCA 8a Irwell Settled Valley, LCA 9b Turton-Jumbles, LCA Upland Moorland Hills in Bolton (as defined in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**));
- Changes to the character and features of Landscape Character Types / Areas beyond 10km of the Turbine Development Zones (as defined in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**));
- Changes to views / visual amenity from Settlements and Urban centres within 10km, of the Turbine Development Zones, where effects are unlikely to be significant which include Holme Chapel, Cornholme, Todmorden, Walsden, Littleborough and Milnrow (as defined in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**));
- Changes in views/ visual amenity Visual from Settlements and Urban centres beyond 10km of the Turbine Development Zones (as defined in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**));
- Changes in views / visual amenity for road users of the M65;
- Changes in views / visual amenity for recreational receptors (as defined in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**)); and
- Changes in views / visual amenity for users of key routes beyond 20km of the Turbine Development Zones; and
- The Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Nidderdale National Landscape.

Effects Likely / Significant

11.12 Following the EIA Scoping process, the following additional effect has been ‘scoped in’:

Effects of turbine lighting

11.13 This effect has been ‘scoped in’ to ensure that the impacts from proposed operational lighting are considered and reported within this Chapter.

11.14 Since the EIA Scoping process, updates to the structuring of effects / receptors have been made to provide clarity on the receptors that are considered at construction / decommissioning stages and those considered at the operational stage.

11.15 **Table 11.2** outlines the effects that are considered likely / significant and are reported within this Chapter.

Table 11.2: Effects likely / significant

Likely significant effect	Receptor(s)	Applicable stage(s)
Changes in landscape character and features	LCA A1: South Pennine Moors	Construction / decommissioning
	LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills ⁱ	
	LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe	
	LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup)	
	LCA C1: Rossendale Hills	
Changes in views / visual amenity	Settlements within 5km including Whitworth, Edenfield and Ramsbottom, Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads and Rawtenstall	
	Recreational users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor	
	Recreational users of Lobden Golf Course, Pennine Bridleway and Rossendale Way – east of Whitworth	
Changes in landscape character and features	LCA A1: South Pennine Moors	Operation
	LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills ⁱⁱ	
	LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe	
	LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup)	
	LCA C1: Rossendale Hills	
	LCA B2: West Pennine Moors	
	LCA D5: Oswaldtwistle & Darwen Moor Fringe	

ⁱ Name of receptor updated from EIA Scoping.

ⁱⁱ Name of receptor updated from EIA Scoping.

Likely significant effect	Receptor(s)	Applicable stage(s)
	LCA G6: River Roch & Tributaries	
	LCA I3: Haslingden Grane	
	LCA 20: Affetside and Ainsworth	
	LCA 22: Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat	
	LCA 23: River Irwell (north Bury) and Kirklees	
	LCA 25: River Roch	
	LCA 26: Prettywood, Pilsworth and Unsworth Moss	
	LCA 27: Simster, Slattocks and Healds Green	
	LCA 28: Rochdale and Oldham South Pennine Foothills	
	LCA 29: Rough Hill to Brun Moor	
Changes in views / visual amenity	Settlements within 10km where effects could be significant, including Norden and Wolstenholme, Rochdale, Catley Lane Head, Whitworth, Bacup, Newchurch and Stacksteads, Cowpe, Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Edenfield, Ramsbottom, Greenmount and Summerseat, Bury and Tottington, Hooley Bridge and Heywood	
	Recreational routes and Places of Interest within the landscape, including users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor, Cowm Reservoir, Ashworth Moor Reservoir, Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate, Burrs Country Park, Hollingworth Country Park, Tandle Hill Country Park, Pennine Bridleway, Rossendale Way, Rochdale Way, Irwell Sculpture Trail, Calderdale Way, Oldham Way, Witton Weavers Way, National Cycle Route 6, National Cycle Route 92 and specific viewpoints, including Knowl Hill and Peel Tower	
	Key transport routes including M60, M61, M62, M66, A56, A58, A6 and A62	
Effects on special qualities of designated landscapes	Peak District National Park	
	Forest of Bowland National Landscape	
	Calderdale Special Landscape Area	
Night-time landscape and visual effects	Landscape character – LCA A1: South Pennine Moors and LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills	

Likely significant effect	Receptor(s)	Applicable stage(s)
	Residents and settlement – Catley Lane Head, Whitworth, Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads and Rawtenstall, Cowpe and other settlement	
	Recreational users of the Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate	
	Designated landscapes – Peak District National Park	

Assessment Methodology

Legislative Framework, Policy and Guidance

Legislation

11.16 There is no legislation relevant to the assessment of landscape and visual.

National policy

11.17 The following policy has informed the assessment of effects within this Chapter.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (most recently updated February 2025)

11.18 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated December 2024)¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Sections 12, 14 and 15 are of relevance to this Chapter.

11.19 Paragraph 165 states:

‘To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should: a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, and their future re-powering and life extension, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed appropriately (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts).’ (NPPF 2025)

National Policy Statement EN-1 (Overarching) (most recently updated January 2026)

11.20 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (updated January 2026)² - Section 5.10 concerns landscape and visual matters relating to energy infrastructure. Local policy

11.21 Within Rossendale, the adopted Development Plan comprises:

- Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 (December 2021) (‘Rossendale LP’)³;
- Joint Lancashire Mineral and Waste Core Strategy (March 2009)⁴; and
- Joint Lancashire Minerals & Waste Site Allocations and Development Management Plan (September 2013)⁵.

11.22 Policies within Rossendale relevant to the LVIA comprise:

- Rossendale LP Strategic Policy ENV3 (Landscape Character and Quality);
- Rossendale LP Strategic Policy ENV5: (Green Infrastructure networks);

- Rossendale LP Policy ENV7 (Wind Turbines); and
- Rossendale LP Policy LT3 (Tourism).

11.23 Within Rochdale, the adopted Development Plan comprises:

- Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document for Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan 2022 to 2039 ('Pfe') (adopted 21 March 2024)⁶;
- Rochdale Core Strategy ('Rochdale CS') (adopted 19 October 2016)⁷;
- Saved policies of the Rochdale Borough Unitary Development Plan ('Rochdale UDP') (adopted June 2006)⁸;
- Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan ('GMJMP') (adopted 26 April 2013)⁹; and
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan ('GMJWP') (adopted 1 April 2012)¹⁰.

11.24 Policies within Rochdale relevant to the LVIA comprise:

- Pfe Policy JP-G1 (Landscape Character);
- Rochdale CS Policy P2 (Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage); and
- Rochdale CS Policy DM1 (General Development Management Requirements).

Guidance

11.25 The following guidance has informed the assessment of effects within this Chapter:

- PPG: Natural Environment (updated February 2025) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Paragraphs 036 and 037 are relevant¹¹;
- PPG: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (updated August 2023) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Paragraphs 005, 007 and 013 are relevant¹²;
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (2013). Landscape Institute and IEMA (now ISEP)¹³;
- Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (2024) Landscape Institute¹⁴;
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals (TGN 06/19) (2019) Landscape Institute¹⁵;
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations (TGN 02/21) (2021) Landscape Institute¹⁶;

- Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (TGN 02/19) (2019) Landscape Institute¹⁷;
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014) Natural England¹⁸;
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2019) Natural England¹⁹;
- Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape (2017) NatureScot²⁰;
- Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (2021) Nature Scot²¹;
- Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2 (2017) NatureScot²²; and
- Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment (2024) NatureScot²³.

Defining the Study Area

11.26 It is accepted practice within landscape and visual assessment work that the extent of the study area for a development proposal is broadly defined by the visual envelope of the Project for Assessment. An initial study area of 45km has been used, as illustrated by **Figure 11.1**, in line with best practice guidance. More detailed study areas have been agreed upon for the cumulative assessment and residential visual amenity.

Background Studies to Inform the ES

11.27 **Table 11.3** summarises all studies / surveys / analyses / evaluations undertaken to inform the assessment presented within this Chapter.

Table 11.3: Studies / surveys / evaluations / analyses undertaken to inform the ES

Study / survey / analysis / evaluation	Overview	Date of completion
Landscape and visual site assessment survey	Landscape and visual survey including the Assessment Boundary, landscape character areas within 10km, recreational routes, Public Rights of Way and viewpoint locations following correspondence with the local authorities.	March 2025
Desktop landscape and visual study	Review of national and local character assessments.	August 2024
Site visits	Preliminary studies of the Assessment Boundary and relevant viewpoint locations.	July 2024 – April 2025
Final site photography	Photographic study of the Assessment Boundary and relevant viewpoint locations.	April 2025
Figures and visualisations	Production of a suite of figures to accompany the LVIA. Visualisations from agreed viewpoints following Landscape Institute guidance LI TGN 06-19 and NatureScot guidance 2017 Visual Representation of Wind Farms', Version 2.2.	May 2025

Study / survey / analysis / evaluation	Overview	Date of completion
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	Presented in this Chapter and appendices documenting the assessment of effects on landscape and visual receptors as a result of the Project for Assessment.	Summer 2024 – Spring 2026
Further on site analyses and photography for FEI	Photography was undertaken for a further visualisation for substation. Consideration of other elements identified in consultation was also investigated whilst on site.	May 2026

Assessment Process

- 11.28 A detailed description of the LVIA methodology is included in **Appendix 11.1**. A summary of the primary judgements is provided in the following section.
- 11.29 The assessment has been undertaken following the approach set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (GLVIA3). The assessment has also drawn upon current relevant good practice guidance published by Landscape Institute and NatureScot.
- 11.30 Scout Moor I (outside the control of the Applicant) is due to be decommissioned in 2033. As such, in line with the recent advice outlined in NatureScot's Pre-application Guidance for Onshore Wind Farms, published in February 2024, the assessment has considered the effects arising from the addition of the Project for Assessment from the following two different baseline scenarios:
- Existing Baseline Scenario – whereby it is assumed that the current baseline includes Scout Moor I as a baseline feature in the landscape and views; and
 - Restored Baseline Scenario – whereby it is assumed that Scout Moor I is decommissioned (July 2033) and the site restored, and therefore is no longer present in the landscape or in views.

Night-time assessment

- 11.31 The Project for Assessment includes aviation lighting, for which an assessment of potential night-time impacts is included below in this Chapter. There is a distinction between light pollution or nuisance and the effect of lighting on the character and amenity of the landscape at night. This is not a technical lighting assessment but focusses on the night-time effects as a result of the introduction of new artificial lighting within the landscape, with consequent effects on the night character and visual amenity of the area.
- 11.32 In this context, effects on landscape character are almost exclusively concerned with perceptions of darkness and remoteness as most of the key characteristic constituent elements of landscapes are generally obscured after dark. The existing light environment and landscape designations is illustrated in **Figure 11.2**. The detailed Night-time Assessment is contained below in this Chapter.
- 11.33 For visual receptors, the value attached to night-time views is considered to be low unless there is a particular feature that can be best appreciated in the hours of darkness. The

susceptibility of visual receptors also differs at night, reflecting the different activities people undertake in the hours of darkness, such as stargazing. As a result, the receptors for night-time impacts may be different from those that experience day-time impacts.

Cumulative assessment

- 11.34 Cumulative assessment considers the likely significant effects of more than one development. The Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) is presented in full in this chapter and describes the likely combined cumulative effects of the Project for Assessment in association with consented and proposed developments. This assessment focussed on the additional change brought about by the Project for Assessment and where relevant, also considered the effect of the totality of the combined effect with other cumulative developments.
- 11.35 It is important to differentiate between the assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Project for Assessment with other developments that are:
- Scenario 1: Operational (or under construction), which have been included as part of the baseline assessed in the Chapter;
 - Scenario 2: The Project for Assessment with operational and consented development; and
 - Scenario 3: The Project for Assessment with operational, consented development and sites in planning (with a submitted and validated planning application).
- 11.36 The approach to the CLVIA follows NatureScot guidance (2021). As such, it focuses upon those wind turbine developments that have the potential to give rise to significant cumulative effects and those likely to influence decision making, rather than an assessment of every potential cumulative effect. Scoping and pre-planning wind farms which have little or no fixed proposals, are not considered within the detailed assessment, in line with NatureScot's cumulative guidance. However, their locations are noted in **Figures 11.3** and **11.4**.
- 11.37 Following a review of the cumulative search area, it was stated at EIA Scoping that the potential for significant cumulative effects would be contained within a 20km radius. The list of wind energy developments to be considered within the cumulative assessment is listed in **Chapter 16: Assessment of Cumulative Effects** and illustrated in **Figure 11.4**. The cumulative data cut-off date for the FEI was 15 April 2026.
- 11.38 In Scenario 1, all cumulative schemes identified as operational (none under construction) within 45km are shown on **Viewpoints 1 – 25** where relevant. The implications of Scenario 1, the existing baseline, are considered in the main assessment reported in this Chapter (not separated out within the cumulative assessment).
- 11.39 In Scenario 2 there is only one cumulative scheme; Pimbo Road. This scheme comprises one turbine at a tip height at 125m. Considering this is a single turbine scheme, located 35km to the south-west, it is considered the addition of the Project for Assessment in combination with this scheme would not result in significant cumulative effects and is therefore excluded from further detailed assessment.

- 11.40 In Scenario 3 there is only one cumulative scheme; Calderdale Wind Farm. In April 2026, a Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report (PEIR) which illustrated 34 turbines at a tip height of up to 200m, approximately 15km away. Whilst this is not the final proposed scheme, there is sufficient information to consider the potential cumulative effects, and this scheme has the potential to be seen in combination/successive views and sequentially with the Project for Assessment which could potentially result in significant cumulative effects. Therefore, it has been included in the visualisations and in the cumulative landscape and visual assessment.

Residential visual amenity

- 11.41 As set out within LI Technical Guidance Note 02/19 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)':

*'Changes in views and visual amenity are considered in the planning process. In respect of private views and visual amenity, it is widely known that, no one has 'a right to a view.' ... 'It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern. However, there are situations where the effect on the outlook / visual amenity of a residential property is so great that it is not generally considered to be in the public interest to permit such conditions to occur where they did not exist before.'*²⁴

- 11.42 The methodology and assessment of effects on residential visual amenity for the most affected properties within 2km is included in the **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)**.

Distances

- 11.43 Where distances are given in the assessment, these are approximate distances from the nearest wind turbine to the nearest part of the receptor in question, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Visual aids

- 11.44 Photographs of the existing views and photomontages showing the Project for Assessment are shown in **Visualisations**. The method of visualisation selected has been informed by Landscape Institute, NatureScot's 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms - Guidance' (Version 2.2)²⁵ and Technical Guidance Note 06/19 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals'²⁶.

- 11.45 The methodology for the production of the photomontage visualisations and figures is included in **Appendix 11.2**. There are no comparative visualisations between the 2025 ES and this 2026 FEI ES. However, for the most part the visuals have stayed the same (unless where it was necessary to amend) for ease of comparison. The ZTV categories have also stayed the same when the ZTVs were re-run, for ease of comparison.

Reporting of the Environmental Effect and Significance Criteria

- 11.46 The assessment of likely significant environmental effects as a result of the Project for Assessment has taken into account the construction, operational and decommissioning stages. The following sections define the approach adopted within the assessment for the

determination of sensitivity, magnitude of effect / change, level of effect and significance. This is a summary and the full LVIA methodology is set out in **Appendix 11.1**.

Determining the Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

- 11.47 Sensitivity is judged by taking into account the component judgments about the value and susceptibility of the receptor (as outlined in **Tables 11.4** and **11.5**). A slightly greater weight is given to susceptibility in judging the sensitivity of visual receptors. The sensitivity of affected receptors has been considered on a scale of **high, medium** or **low**.

Table 11.4: Landscape sensitivity

		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National	High	High / Medium	Medium
	Regional	High / Medium	Medium	Medium / Low
	Community	Medium	Medium / Low	Low

Table 11.5: Visual sensitivity

		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National	High	High / Medium	Medium
	Regional	High / Medium	High / Medium	Medium / Low
	Community	High / Medium	Medium	Low

Determining the Magnitude of Effect / Change

- 11.48 Scale of effect is the first factor in determining magnitude, which may be higher if the effect is particularly widespread and / or long-lasting, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent and / or timescale. **Table 11.6** illustrates how this judgement is considered as a two-step process. Firstly, scale and extent are considered, for which the outcomes are illustrated by the first column of the table. The second part of the table illustrates the influence of duration on this initial judgement. Where magnitude is judged to lie between levels, an intermediate assessment will be adopted.
- 11.49 The magnitude of effect / change has been considered as the change experienced from the current baseline conditions and has been considered on a scale of **substantial, moderate, slight** or **negligible**.

Table 11.6: Magnitude of effect

Scale / extent		Large	Medium	Small	Negligible
Wide Intermediate Localised Limited	Wide	Substantial			
	Intermediate		Moderate		
	Localised			Slight	
	Limited				Negligible

Stage 1 Result / Duration		Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
Permanent Long-term Medium-term Short-term	Permanent	Substantial			
	Long-term		Moderate		
	Medium-term			Slight	
	Short-term				Negligible

Determining the Level of Effect

11.50 The level of any identified landscape or visual effect is described as Major, Moderate, Minor or Negligible. Intermediate judgements are also used. These categories are based on the consideration of receptor sensitivity with the predicted magnitude of change. **Table 11.7** is not used as a prescriptive tool and illustrates the typical outcomes, allowing for the exercise of professional judgement. In some instances, a particular parameter may be considered as having a determining effect on the analysis.

Table 11.7: Determining level of effect

		Magnitude of effect / change			
		Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
Receptor sensitivity	High	Major	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor / Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Negligible

11.51 The following terms have been used to define the level of the effects identified, and these can be 'beneficial' or 'adverse':

- **Major effect:** Where the Project for Assessment is likely to cause a considerable change from the baseline conditions and the receptor has limited adaptability, tolerance or recoverability or is of higher sensitivity;
- **Moderate effect:** Where the Project for Assessment is likely to cause either a considerable change from the baseline conditions at a receptor which has a degree of adaptability, tolerance or recoverability or a less than considerable change at a receptor that has limited adaptability, tolerance or recoverability;
- **Minor effect:** Where the Project for Assessment is likely to cause a small, but noticeable change from the baseline conditions on a receptor which has limited adaptability, tolerance or recoverability or is of higher sensitivity; or where the Project for Assessment is likely to cause a considerable change from the baseline conditions at a receptor which can adapt, is tolerant of the change and / or can recover from the change; and
- **Negligible:** Where the Project for Assessment is unlikely to cause a noticeable change at a receptor, despite its level of sensitivity, or there is a considerable change at a receptor which is not considered very sensitive to a change.

11.52 The duration of the effect has been assessed as either 'Short-term', 'Medium-term' or 'Long-term'. Short-term is considered to be up to 2 years, medium-term is considered to be between 2 and 10 years, and Long-term is considered to be greater than 10 years.

11.53 It should be noted that this Project for Assessment is considered reversible and it is time-limited and therefore not considered permanent for the purposes of the LVIA.

Determining Significance

11.54 For each effect, a statement has been made as to whether the level of effect is '**Significant**' or '**Not Significant**'. This determination has been based on professional judgement and / or relevant guidance / legislation, where applicable.

11.55 Where the effect has been classified as Major or Major / Moderate, this is considered to be equivalent to a **Significant** effect. Where 'Moderate' effects are predicted, professional judgement is applied to determine whether the effect is **Significant** or **Not Significant** ensuring that the potential for significant effects to arise has been thoroughly considered and justification is provided for the judgement reached as appropriate. Effects of Moderate / Minor, Minor, Minor / Negligible or Negligible are considered to be **Not Significant**.

Baseline Conditions

Overview

11.56 An overview of the baseline study results is provided in this section, with the full baseline description of the individual landscape and visual receptors (where relevant) for ease of reference.

11.57 This section identifies those landscape and visual receptors which merit detailed consideration in the assessment of effects and those which are not taken forward for further

assessment as effects *'have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further'*²⁷ (GLVIA3, para. 3.19).

- 11.58 Both this baseline section and the effects section describe landscape character and visual receptors before considering designated areas, as it is common for designations to encompass both character and visual considerations within their Special Qualities or purposes of designation. A summary is provided below, with further baseline information provided in **Appendices 11.3 – 11.5**.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

- 11.59 A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) study was generated based on the dimensions of the wind turbines of the Project for Assessment. The analysis was carried out using a bare earth topographic model, shown in **Figures 11.5 and 11.6**. **Figures 11.7 and 11.8** incorporating the screening effects of forestry, woodland and buildings to illustrate the potential visibility of the proposed wind turbines. The bare earth ZTVs in **Figures 11.12 – 11.14** are a combination of hub height and blade tip visibility. Other elements of the Project for Assessment, such as tracks and compounds are not included within the ZTV study. The model does not take into account any localised features such as small clusters of trees, hedgerows or individual trees which may result in additional screening. The vegetation (woodlands and forestry) which has been included in the ZTV with screening, is identified on the ZTV.

- 11.60 The ZTV studies were used to aid the identification of those landscape and visual receptors that are likely to be most affected by the Project for Assessment and those that do not require detailed consideration as set out under the 'Scope of Assessment' section above.

- 11.61 The Blade Tip, Hub Height and Screening ZTVs for the proposed wind turbines show that the main area of visibility extends to:

- Most areas within 5km in all directions;
- Areas of elevated ground to the east at Holcombe Moor (5.5 – 7.5km);
- Areas of elevated ground within Forest of Rossendale north of Burnley, Rawtenstall and Bacup;
- Bare Earth ZTVs indicate much of Rochdale, Heywood, Chadderton, Whitefield, and Bury to the south within 15km; and
- Beyond 15km to the south-west across the conurbations of Greater Manchester.

- 11.62 There would also be some visibility from the following:

- More limited visibility from Ramsbottom and Haslingden to the west;
- Linear band of upland moor and pastoral fringe to the north-east of Todmorden (10 – 15km);
- Limited and distant visibility to the east of Walsden and Littleborough (9 – 12km);
- Limited areas of uninhabited moorland at Turton Moor (14 – 16km);

- Limited remote areas of the Peak District National Park (beyond 17km);
- Limited and distant visibility within the Forest of Bowland National Landscape (beyond 19km); and
- Very distant and limited visibility at the edge of the Yorkshire Dales (beyond 39km).

11.63 There would be very limited visibility beyond 15km to the north, south and west. Effects on landscape or visual receptors outside the areas of visibility shown on the ZTV study would not be affected and are not assessed.

11.64 As noted earlier, the ZTV categories between the 2025 ES layout and the 2026 FEI ES layout have remained the same for ease of comparison. The main difference between the 2025 ES layout and the 2026 FEI ES layout is the reduction in the number of turbines visible, but the overall pattern of visibility remains much the same.

National Landscape Character Area 36 – Southern Pennines

11.65 At a national level, the Project for Assessment falls predominantly within National Character Area 36 (NCA 36) – Southern Pennines. This landscape covers part of the Pennine ridge of hills, lying between the Peak District National Park to the south and the Yorkshire Dales National Park to the north. The key characteristics are set out in **Appendix 11.3** and a summary description of the NCA describes the landscape as:

‘A landscape of large-scale sweeping moorlands, pastures enclosed by drystone walls, and gritstone settlements contained within narrow valleys. The area contains internationally important mosaics of moorland habitats that support rare birds such as merlin, short-eared owl and twite. The peat soils, including blanket bog, store significant volumes of carbon. With its high rainfall and impervious rocks it is an important area for water supply, with many reservoirs supplying water to nearby conurbations.’²⁸

11.66 This NCA is also important for recreation due to the extensive open access land, national trails, and Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

11.67 The NCA profile sets out five Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) and one additional opportunity which have informed design development and mitigation and are described as:

- *‘SEO 1: Safeguard, manage and enhance the large areas of open, expansive moorland and the internationally important habitats and species they support, as well as protecting soils and water resources.*
- *SEO 2: Manage and enhance the pastoral character of the moorland fringes, lower hills and valleys, with their mosaics of pastures and meadows and their strong field patterns defined by drystone walls, to improve ecological networks and strengthen landscape character.*
- *SEO 3: Protect the comprehensive range of historic landscape features for their cultural value and the contribution they make to local distinctiveness and sense of identity.*

- *SEO 4: Improve opportunities for the enjoyment and understanding of the landscape and to experience a sense of escapism and inspiration, while also conserving the qualities of the landscape and its valuable historic and wildlife features.*
- *SEO 5: Protect the strong relationship between landscape and the underlying geology, the land uses it supports and its significance to the cultural identity of the area.*
- *Additional Opportunity 1: Manage existing woodlands and extend broadleaved woodland cover in appropriate locations to help deliver climate change mitigation, improve water quality and supply, improve biodiversity, provide biomass, and strengthen landscape character.²⁹*

11.68 Whilst the NCA provides a broad description of landscape character, the LVIA focuses on the detailed assessment of local landscape character using the relevant local Landscape Character assessment based on good practice and the methodology set out in **Appendix 11.1**.

Local Landscape Character

11.69 All LCAs within 20km are shown in **Figures 11.9a** and **11.9b**. The current Landscape Character Assessments covering the Assessment Boundary and the focussed assessment are:

- South Pennines Wind Energy Landscape Study for Rossendale, Burnley, Calderdale, Kirklees and Barnsley Councils (2014ⁱⁱⁱ); and
- Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018).

11.70 The Project for Assessment falls within LCA A1: South Pennine Moors and LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills. Outside the Project for Assessment, LCAs which were considered for further detailed assessment were analysed through desk study and site work. All the LCAs considered for detailed assessment are listed in **Table 11.2** and described in detail in **Appendix 11.3**.

Visual Receptors

11.71 All the visual receptors considered for detailed assessment are listed in **Table 11.2** and not repeated here.

11.72 Visual receptors are ‘the different groups of people who may experience views of the development’ (GLVIA3, paragraph 6.3)²⁷. ZTV studies, baseline desk studies and site visits were used to identify those groups who may be significantly affected by the Project for Assessment.

11.73 The different types of groups considered within this assessment comprise:

- Local residents;
- People using key routes such as roads and cycle ways;

ⁱⁱⁱ This study replaces and supersedes the previous study (2010) and is used through this assessment for consistency.

- People within accessible or recreational landscapes;
- People using PRoW; and
- People visiting specific viewpoints.

11.74 In considering areas of settlement, local recreational routes and local roads, receptors are grouped into areas where effects might be expected to be broadly similar or areas which share particular factors in common.

11.75 Representative viewpoints have been selected to aid the assessment of effects on visual receptors.

Visual Receptor Groups

11.76 All of the visual receptor groups considered in the assessment within the core study area are likely to have visibility of the Project for Assessment, as illustrated by the ZTVs in **Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and listed in **Table 11.2**. Visual receptor groups comprise communities, and include residential settlements, PRoW and local roads, where further assessment is required to identify whether significant effects would be likely to occur. Individual properties within 2km of proposed wind turbines are considered in the **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)**.

Specific Viewpoints

11.77 There are several specific viewpoints within the study area:

- Knowl Hill;
- Peel Tower; and
- Tandle Hill Viewpoint.

11.78 The assessment of specific viewpoints from Knowl Hill and Peel Tower are considered individually. The assessment of views from Tandle Hill Viewpoint is the same as the receptor group for Tandle Country Park as a whole due to the limited extent of visibility for this group.

Baseline Visual Environment

11.79 As shown on **Figure 11.1**, the Project for Assessment primarily comprises upland moorland (see **Chapter 3: Assessment Boundary Context**). The land cover in the vicinity of the Assessment Boundary is dominated by disturbed moorland. There are operational wind farms in the local area, including Scout Moor Wind Farm (SMWF). A network of recreational routes, trails and facilities exists across the upland moor and surrounding the numerous reservoirs. The area has some localised remote qualities away from the existing turbines at SMWF, relative to the surrounding settled valleys and wider urban conurbations of Greater Manchester.

11.80 Landform across the Assessment Boundary mainly comprises a gently undulating, upland moorland plateau from approximately about 375m AOD to 430m AOD. A large area of Rooley Moor and Knowl Moor coincide with open access land, and the Pennine Bridleway (Rooley Moor Road) runs through the Assessment Boundary.

- 11.81 SMWF is a very noticeable large-scale feature in existing views throughout most of the moor with some exceptions to the east and south-east, where turbines are less influential. In addition to SMWF, there are numerous other wind farms in the area, to the north-west, north and east.
- 11.82 The settled valley landscapes comprise linear settlement surround the South Pennine Moor and Moorland fringe landscapes to the north, east and west.
- 11.83 At night, the local environment is partly dark on the moorland away from the urban conurbations of Greater Manchester to the south and settled valleys to the north, west and east as illustrated in **Figure 11.2**.

Viewpoints Overview

- 11.84 The representative viewpoints have been selected based on ZTV analysis, field surveys, and consultation responses from Natural England, RBC, RMBC and others. They represent views from sensitive landscape and visual receptors within the study area and aid in the assessment of landscape and visual effects.

Landscape Designations

- 11.85 The landscape designations considered for further assessment were agreed in consultation with Natural England. Landscape designations are shown on **Figure 11.1** and those considered for further consideration listed in **Table 11.2** are limited to:
- The Peak District National Park;
 - The Forest of Bowland National Landscape; and
 - The Calderdale Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) (refer to the assessment below for details on the SLA units most relevant to this assessment).

Future Baseline

- 11.86 In the absence of the Project for Assessment, it is anticipated that the existing baseline scenario would experience limited change as it is assumed that current land management practices would continue.
- 11.87 There would be a change to the baseline within the area surrounding the Assessment Boundary, in a future scenario, as the existing operational Scout Moor Wind Farm will be decommissioned and its site restored. The removal of the Scout Moor Wind Farm turbines would mean that these turbines would no longer be visible within the landscape or within views. This future scenario is considered in the assessment as the 'Restored Baseline Scenario'.

Primary and Tertiary Mitigation

- 11.88 The description of the site selection rationale is described within **Chapter 5: Consideration of Alternatives**. The iterative design process including the Landscape and Visual considerations are described in the **Planning, Design and Access Statement**.
- 11.89 The design of the Project for Assessment has been a staged process with the aim of arriving at an optimal design configuration in respect of landscape and visual effects, and a range of

other factors including; other environmental, energy yield and technical. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the design to reduce the level of residual effects. The design of Project for Assessment has sought to achieve a coherent and balanced turbine layout from most of the key viewpoints as well as other standard wind farm design guidance provided within the Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape by NatureScot (Version 3a August 2017).

11.90 In order to reduce potential landscape and visual effects, the following site-specific landscape and visual design aims were set out to shape the design development and this Design Analysis is shown on **Figure 11.10**:

- Set back of turbines into the moorland landscape to reduce landscape and visual impacts on Whitworth and the Irwell Valley;
- Removal of turbines 13 and 17 to minimise impacts on Cowpe;
- Maintain an offset from nearest residents to reduce the potential for visual effects to be seen as 'overbearing' in terms of residential visual amenity;
- Whilst the turbines would be located on both sides of Rooley Moor Road, there has been an offset from the route to reduce impacts;
- Minimise the number of wind farm access track crossing point of Rooley Moor Road and where it is crossed, and reduce the long term effects of introducing a new track crossing point on the road;
- Minimise impact of the site access;
- Position the substation off the highest part of the moorland, reducing impacts on those using Rooley Moor Road and the Pennine Bridleway, and positioning closer to the moorland fringe landscape type and existing woodland to integrate screen planting; and
- Reduced lighting scheme to reduce the number of visible lights required on both the nacelles and towers.

11.91 All these landscape and visual mitigation measures are embedded in the development of the design as set out for both primary and tertiary mitigation. Taking this into account, the assessment of residual effects at the construction and operation stages includes this mitigation.

Construction Stage

11.92 The following primary and tertiary mitigation, which has been evaluated as part of the construction stage assessment, is outlined below:

- Protection of highly valued landscape features that are to be retained within the Assessment Boundary, including Rooley Moor Road, PRoWs, common land, and areas of higher quality peatland;
- Placing of turbines on gentler gradients, where possible, to minimise the groundworks necessary to accommodate the turbine bases, crane pads and access requirements;

- Utilising existing access tracks from SMWF in order to minimise requirement for a new site access and access tracks;
- Location of temporary construction compound out of sight from nearest parts of Rooley Moor Road;
- Maintaining the construction working areas on-site and temporary construction compound in a tidy and contained condition and management of public access / recreation across on-site;
- Removing and restoring all temporary construction materials and areas on-site once work is completed; and
- Controlling construction lighting.

11.93 All landscape and visual effects at the construction stage would be short-term, temporary and reversible.

Operational Stage

11.94 The following primary and tertiary mitigation has been evaluated as part of the operational stage assessment:

- The operational period of the Project for Assessment would be time limited and reversible (with an operational lifespan of 40 years);
- Provision and implementation of a **Moorland Restoration and Management Plan**, **Outline Peat Management Plan** as well as an **Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan** to take advantage of the opportunities identified in the NCA Statements of Environmental Opportunity for the Southern Pennines;
- Provision for adequate maintenance of site facilities and landscape features such as proposed planting at the substation, Rooley Moor Road crossing point and access tracks;
- Adjustments and reduction in numbers of wind turbines to improve visual composition and minimise inconsistent turbine spacing, such as relatively large gaps, outliers or excessive overlapping turbines to achieve a relatively balanced array from most views;
- Location of substation compound on the edge of the moorland, where mitigation planting would be more in keeping with local landscape features, in order to mitigate some of the impact of this feature; and
- A reduced lighting scheme whereby only 8 of the nacelles would require lighting as well as automatic dimming of the lights during periods of good visibility of over 5km, and timer activated lighting to ensure that day time impacts would not occur, as noted in **Chapter 4: Development Specification**.

11.95 All landscape and visual effects at the operational stage would be long-term, temporary (and reversible) following decommissioning.

Assessment of Effects, Secondary Mitigation and Residual Effects

- 11.96 This section sets out the residual effects that the Project for Assessment would have on landscape and visual receptors. This section should be read in conjunction with **Appendices 11.1 – 11.5**.
- 11.97 All landscape and visual mitigation measures are embedded in the development of the design as set out above. The only secondary mitigation which would not be included within the assessment of residual effects relates to part of the mitigation for aviation lighting which is clearly set out within the assessment of night-time landscape and visual effects.

Viewpoint Analysis

- 11.98 Viewpoint analysis has been undertaken from a total of 25 representative viewpoints. The viewpoint locations are illustrated in **Figure 11.1**. The visualisations (comprising existing view, wireframes and photomontages) are illustrated in **Volume 2** Viewpoints 1 – 24. The viewpoint locations are illustrated in **Figures 11.1 – 11.16**.
- 11.99 The full viewpoint analysis is contained within **Appendix 11.4: Viewpoint Analysis**, and the findings are summarised below in **Table 11.8**. Visual analysis considers the nature and the scale of changes to character and views at each viewpoint location. The sensitivity of receptors and the wider extent of the effect (beyond the individual viewpoint location) and its duration are considered in the main body of the assessment text below as part of the consideration of the magnitude, level and significance of effects.

Table 11.8: Visual analysis summary

Viewpoint Ref.	Name	Distance (km)	Scale of visual effect*	Scale of landscape effect*
1	Pennine Bridleway, Rooley Moor Road	0.3km	Large	Large
2	Prickshaw Lane, near Knacks Lane	1.4km	Large	Large
3	Greenbooth Reservoir Car Park	1.5km	Large / Medium	Large / Medium
4	Knowl Hill	1.6km	Medium	Medium
5	Cowpe Recreation Ground	1.4km	Large	Large
6	Coppice Drive, Whitworth	2km	Large	Large
7	Cowm Reservoir, Whitworth	2km	Large	Large
8	Bankside Lane PRow, Bacup	2.1km	Large	Large

Viewpoint Ref.	Name	Distance (km)	Scale of visual effect*	Scale of landscape effect*
9	Lobden Golf Course / Rossendale Way	2.5km	Large	Large
10	Maden Recreational ground, Bacup	2.7km	Large	Large
11	Edenfield Road	2.8km	Medium / Small	Small
12	St Nicholas' Church, Newchurch	2.7km	Large	Large
13	Rochdale Road Edenfield	3km	Small	Negligible
14	Norden Cricket Club	3km	Medium/Small	Small
15	Haslingden Old Road, Rawtenstall	4.2km	Medium	Medium / Small
16	Todmorden Road	4.4km	Large / Medium	Large / Medium
17	Peel Tower	6.2km	Medium	Small
18	Bulls Hill	6.4km	Medium	Medium / Small
19	Bodiam Road, Greenmount	7.2km	Medium / Small	Small
20	A58	7.4km	Medium	Medium / Small
21	Recreation ground near Allendale Avenue, Sunnybank	11.3km	Medium / Small	Small
22	Studley Pike, Pennine Way	11.9km	Small	Small
23	Pennine Way, nr Black Moss Reservoir	18.5km	Small / Negligible	Small / Negligible
24	Barley Moor, Pendle Hill	21.8km	Small / Negligible	Small / Negligible
25	View from public footpath above proposed substation	0.14km	Large	Large

* This is based on the Existing Baseline Scenario rather than the Restored Baseline Scenario.

Summary of viewpoint analysis

11.100 Landscape analysis:

- Large scale effects would be confined to the local area within approximately 3km from nearest wind turbines;
- Medium scale effects would be confined within approximately 8km;
- Small scale effects on character would extend up to around 15km from the wind turbines; and
- Beyond 20km, effects on character would reduce to Small / Negligible to Negligible.

11.101 Visual analysis:

- Large scale effects would be contained within approximately 3km from the nearest wind turbines, noting that views from the east towards the proposed wind turbines would be most prominent most notably at Whitworth where influence from other existing operational turbines is more limited. The proposed wind turbines would be very noticeable with Large / Medium scale of change out to 5km – 6km including from more elevated locations including parts of Bacup and elevated sections of moorland above Whitworth, Bacup, Rawtenstall and Ramsbottom;
- Medium scale effects would be contained within approximately 3 – 12km from the nearest wind turbines; mainly to the west and south where the turbines would appear as an extension to the existing cluster of operational turbines at SMWF; and
- Small scale effects are generally contained within approximately 10 – 20km from the wind turbines with some exceptions at Edenfield (3km) where a limited number of proposed wind turbines would be perceived as part of the operational SMWF array.

11.102 In comparing the 2025 ES layout to the 2026 FEI ES layout, the number and density of turbines has noticeably reduced. However, the lateral extent and scale of turbines have not changed, so for the most part the scale of effect has remained the same. There was only one reduction in the level of the scale of effect.

Construction Stage

11.103 Effects during construction / decommissioning and the operation of the Project for Assessment are considered for each landscape and visual receptor. The effect of decommissioning on landscape character and visual receptors would be equal to, or lesser than, the effects during construction. Therefore, they have been considered together.

11.104 The erection of the proposed wind turbines involving the use of large cranes would be a component of the construction stage. Compared with the ground-level construction activities, the influence of this activity on landscape character would affect a wider range of receptors, similar to those during the operational stage. These construction effects would occur for the LCAs and visual receptors as reported in the operational stage and therefore are not repeated here.

11.105 The following assessment focuses on the ground-level construction effects.

Changes in landscape character and features

Changes to landscape features on the site

- 11.106 Changes to landscape fabric occur where there would be physical changes to the landscape. In this instance, changes to landscape fabric would predominantly occur within the Assessment Boundary.
- 11.107 There would be a long-term loss of landscape elements, mainly moorland habitat, as a result of the introduction of the wind turbines and their foundations, creation of new access track or improvements to existing tracks, and construction of the substation compound and associated infrastructure. The **Moorland Restoration and Management Plan** includes habitat restoration areas, which would increase the amount of valued landscape elements within the Assessment Boundary and host LCTs. These changes, along with the relatively small amount of area retained at the base of the wind turbines, would slightly reduce the amount of moorland within the Assessment Boundary but would improve the quality of the remaining habitats.
- 11.108 The crossing point of Rooley Moor Road by the new access track would be protected during construction and restoration measures would include some amelioration of eroded condition due to vehicle misuse.

LCA A1: South Pennine Moors (within the High Moorland Plateaux LCT)

- 11.109 The landscape character of the LCA A1: South Pennine Moors is considered to be of Medium / Low landscape sensitivity to construction activity. The construction and decommissioning stages of the Project for Assessment would result in some short-term effects within the host LCT A1: South Pennine Moors. The upland and exposed nature of the moor and moor fringe would result in a very noticeable influence of construction activity for ground-level operations across some of the host landscape unit.
- 11.110 Direct effects on the physical landscape would result primarily from areas of vegetation clearance, new sections of the access track, water crossings, foundations and hardstanding for erection of the wind turbines, construction compound and substation compound, as well as the activity and movement of large construction vehicles / cranes within an area of moorland. There would be temporary disruption to recreational routes and open access land, but diversions would be put in place to enable access across the moor. Details relating to the disruption and management of open access land is contained in **Chapter 4: Development Specification** and the **Outdoor Access Management & Enhancement Plan**. Construction activities would notably contrast with the more remote qualities of local landscape character, particularly to the east of SMWF and Rooley Moor Road. However, this would occur within the context of a landscape which has seen much industrial activity in the past including the numerous quarries.
- 11.111 The landscape character of LCA A1: South Pennine Moors is considered to be of Medium / Low landscape sensitivity to construction activity. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Large in scale across an Intermediate extent of this LCA and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills (within the Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes LCT)

- 11.112 The landscape character of the LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills is considered to be of Medium / Low landscape sensitivity to construction activity. The construction stage of the Project for Assessment would result in some short-term effects within the host LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills. There would be a noticeable influence of construction activity due to ground-level operations across part of the upland moor, west of Rooley Moor Road.
- 11.113 Direct effects on the physical landscape would result primarily from vegetation clearance, new sections of the access track, water course crossings, foundations and hardstandings for erection of the wind turbines construction compound and substation compound, as well as the activity and movement of large construction vehicles / cranes within an area of moorland. There would be temporary disruption to recreational routes and open access land, but diversions would be put in place to enable access across the moor (see **Chapter 4: Development Specification and Outdoor Access Management and Enhancement Plan**). However, this would occur within the context of a landscape which has seen much industrial activity in the past including the numerous quarries.
- 11.114 The landscape character of LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills is considered to be of Medium / Low landscape sensitivity to construction activity. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Large in scale across an Intermediate extent of this LCA and Short-Term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe

- 11.115 The landscape character of LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe is considered to be of Medium / Low landscape sensitivity to construction activity. The direct effects would primarily result from the construction and use of the transfer compound, general construction activity within this and the adjacent LCA and substation. The movement of large-scale plant / cranes would disturb some of the relatively remote qualities within parts of this LCA. However, this would occur within the context of a landscape which has seen much industrial activity in the past including the numerous quarries. There would be no impacts on access to the recreational routes and open access land within this LCA.
- 11.116 The sensitivity of LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe to construction activity is considered to be Medium / Low. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Medium / Small in scale across a Localised extent of this LCA and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup) (within the Settled Valley LCT)

- 11.117 The landscape character of LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup) is considered to be of High / Medium sensitivity to construction activity. There would be some indirect impact to views and perceptual qualities across a localised part of this LCA. There would be indirect effects and no change to the physical character of the LCA. However, some ground-level construction activity, including changes to vegetation, the movement of plant, and earthworks, would be visible from the more elevated areas of the LCA to the east of Whitworth and Bacup which disturb some of the more remote qualities.

11.118 The sensitivity of LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup) is considered to be of High / Medium sensitivity to construction activity. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Small in scale across a Localised extent of this LCA and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA C1: Rossendale Hills (within the Enclosed Uplands LCT)

11.119 The landscape character of LCA C1: Rossendale Hills Enclosed Uplands is considered to be of Medium / Low landscape sensitivity to construction activity. There would be indirect effects and no change to the physical character of the LCA. However, some ground-level construction activity, including the movement of plant, and earthworks, and construction of the substation would be visible from the more elevated, south facing slopes of the LCA which also disturb some of the more remote qualities causing indirect effects.

11.120 The sensitivity of LCA C1: Rossendale Hills Enclosed Uplands is considered to be of Medium / Low sensitivity to construction activity. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Small in scale across an Intermediate extent of this LCA and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.121 All mitigation for construction stage effects has been embedded within the design as primary or tertiary mitigation and no further secondary mitigation or enhancement has been identified.

Residual effects

11.122 In the absence of secondary mitigation, the residual effect for all receptors is the same as that reported in the pre-mitigation scenario.

Significance

11.123 There would be some construction stage effects for the two hosts LCA A1: South Pennine Moors and LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills of **Moderate** adverse and **Significant**. Effects on other landscape character units would be less than **Moderate** and **Not Significant**.

Changes in views / visual amenity

11.124 The construction activity across the Assessment Boundary would include the construction of the access tracks, turbine foundations and hardstanding for the erection of turbines, installation of electrical infrastructure, construction compound, substation, as well as vehicle movements. These effects would be very different in nature to those experienced once the Project for Assessment was complete. Changes in views would result in direct effects for all visual receptors.

Whitworth

11.125 Some residents in Whitworth would experience views of some construction activities between T1 and T3 on the skyline of the moorland fringe. There would be limited views of construction activities at access tracks and hardstanding at T4 only, from more elevated parts of this group. However, the detail of the ground-level construction activities would not be

clearly discernible given the separation distance, but the activities would be perceptible including vehicle movements and works at the base of turbines and construction compound.

- 11.126 The sensitivity of this receptor group to construction activity is considered to be High / Medium. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Small in scale across an Intermediate extent of this receptor group and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Moderate / Slight, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Edenfield and Ramsbottom

- 11.127 Construction activities would be visible from the edges and more elevated areas of Edenfield and Ramsbottom. The movement of plant and machinery on the access track and at the site entrance would be visible across a small part of the background and incidental to the focus of views within the settlement. There would be limited visual impact on the overall composition but there would be a change in the perceptual qualities experienced.

- 11.128 The sensitivity of this receptor group to construction activity is considered to be High / Medium. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Small in scale across an Intermediate extent of this LCA and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads and Rawtenstall

- 11.129 There would be views of the construction activity from elevated locations at the northern end of Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads and Rawtenstall, including users of the PRoW between those settlements. Ground-level construction activities including the movement of plant and machinery, and construction of the substation are unlikely to be clearly discernible from the majority of these settlements. Where there are more open views of construction activities within the moorland it would be a perceptible addition on the horizon.

- 11.130 The sensitivity of this receptor group to construction activity is considered to be High / Medium. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Small in scale across a Localised extent of this LCA and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Recreational users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor

- 11.131 Recreational users of the upland moor, including users of open access land, local trails and PRoW, would be very noticeably affected by construction and decommissioning activities associated with the proposed turbines and substation. Where access to Rooley Moor Road (Pennine Bridleway), PRoW, open access land would temporarily not be possible, diversions would be agreed upon and implemented. Ground-level construction activities would be visible in close proximity, as noted above, for all of those using the moorland for recreation. There would be a clear erosion of any sense of remoteness, isolation or wildness experienced for these recreational users.

- 11.132 The sensitivity of recreational users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor to construction activity is considered to be High / Medium, with the exception of those on the Pennine Bridleway which would be High. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Large in scale across a Wide extent of this moorland and Short-term in duration. Taking

this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Recreational users of Lobden Golf Course, Pennine Bridleway and Rossendale Way - east of Whitworth

11.133 Construction activities would be visible from an elevated area east of Whitworth which includes a network of PRow, Lobden Golf Course, and a section of the Pennine Bridleway and Rossendale Way. Recreational users in this area would experience views of construction operations across the valley within the background, including along access tracks and movement of plant and machinery concentrated near the base of T1, but also T3 and T4. Temporary construction activity would be a small but noticeable addition to the moorland horizon of much wider panoramic views. There would be limited visual impact on the overall composition but there would be a change in the perceptual qualities experienced.

11.134 The sensitivity of these recreational users to construction activity is considered to be High / Medium, with the exception of those on the Pennine Bridleway which would be High. The effects of construction activity are considered to be Small in scale across a Localised extent of this LCA and Short-term in duration. Taking this into account, the magnitude of change is considered to be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Micrositing allowance

11.135 Changes to the turbine locations have the potential to change the composition of the array for both landscape and visual receptors. However, given the very limited micrositing allowance of 50m, there would be no changes to the levels of construction or operational effects for landscape and visual receptors.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.136 All mitigation for the effect of micrositing has been embedded within the design as primary or tertiary mitigation and no further secondary mitigation or enhancement has been identified.

Residual effects

11.137 In the absence of secondary mitigation, the residual effect for all receptors is the same as that reported in the pre-mitigation scenario.

Significance

11.138 There would be a **Major** adverse and **Significant** effect during construction on the recreational users within Rooley Moor / Knowl Moor and Scout Moor. Visual effects on the nearest communities would be **Moderate** or less and considered **Not Significant**.

Operational Stage

Changes in landscape character and features

11.139 This assessment focuses on the operational effect of the Project for Assessment on landscape character receptors.

LCA A1: South Pennine Moors

11.140 As shown in **Figure 11.9a**, this LCA forms one of the host LCAs at the core of the study area. There are other units of this LCA within the study area but the assessment focusses on effect on the host unit where effects would be most notable. The other units of LCA A1 are located

on elevated ground to the north and east beyond the settled valleys, where most already contain wind energy developments within them. There is one smaller unit to the south-west.

- 11.141 As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by *‘a 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. The plateau is subdivided into two main blocks, to the north and south, by the valley of the Calder, while to the west there are three smaller isolated, fragmented moors at Scout Moor, Shore Moor and Heald Moor. It is a large scale sweeping open landscape with strong skyline ridges and expansive views offering a sense of remoteness, isolation and wildness. These special perceptual qualities are reinforced by the proximity to the surrounding urban areas and intersecting industrial valleys.’*³⁰
- 11.142 As described in **Appendix 11.5**, landscape sensitivity is assessed as Medium / Low. There are no national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. The units to the east (not the host unit) coincide with the Calderdale SLA. Moorland contains (or has the potential to contain) a wealth of natural features of importance and this LCA is widely used for recreation, including the Pennine Bridleway and Rossendale Way. Landscape value is assessed as Regional / Community.
- 11.143 This is an exposed, large-scale landscape with sweeping, smooth landforms and the presence of existing wind energy infrastructure at SMWF at the boundary of the host unit. Views are expansive across the disturbed moorland and distant horizon with a relative sense of remoteness. The landform within this LCA forms the backdrop and skyline to the surrounding settled valley landscapes. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Medium / Low.
- 11.144 **Viewpoint 1** is located at the southern edge of the host unit of this LCA and is representative of the nature of change within the host unit. **Viewpoint 25** is located towards the northern part of the host unit which illustrates the influence of the proposed substation. **Viewpoint 22** is located within one of the large units of this LCA to the east. The nature of the change at these viewpoints is described in **Appendix 11.4**. **Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility of the Project for Assessment would be widespread throughout this LCA, with some more limited areas at the western edge.
- 11.145 The Project for Assessment would result in direct effects on the physical character of this LCA, resulting in the loss of some moorland habitat in the introduction of wind turbines, a substation, tracks, associated infrastructure and the loss of some moorland. The **Moorland Restoration and Management Plan** includes moorland and peatland habitat improvements. The proposed woodland planting surrounding the substation would aid local landscape integration.
- 11.146 The proposed wind turbines would be noticeably larger than the existing adjacent SMWF. This would visually increase the size / density of the overall cluster of wind energy infrastructure on this moorland unit. The difference in wind turbine height would be clearly apparent.
- 11.147 At 180m, the proposed wind turbines would appear as additional large-scale features within the interior moorland plateau of the LCA. The vertical height and movement of the wind turbines would notably add to the influence of wind energy infrastructure within this landscape. The rotation of the blades would draw attention to the wind turbines, especially

from the eastern part of this landscape, where turbines are not as prominent and would reduce the sense of remoteness and isolation experienced in this part of the landscape.

- 11.148 In terms of the pattern of wind energy, this enlarged cluster would be perceived as part of the broader concentration of wind energy development within the upland plateaux, including Crook Hill, Reaps Moss, Todmorden and Coal Clough within other units of this LCA to the north and east. Although the Project for Assessment is sited adjacent to SMWF, the scale of the proposed wind turbines within this LCA would substantially intensify the influence of wind energy contained within the core of the upland plateau and appear on the skyline in views from surrounding landscapes.
- 11.149 Landscape impacts on the other units of LCA A1 would be limited due to the influence of existing wind energy in scenic and perceptual associations as a result of the intensification of wind turbines in views on the skyline to the west.
- 11.150 The sensitivity of LCA A1: South Pennine Moors is considered to be Medium / Low. The scale of change is considered to be Large across a Wide extent of this unit of the LCA. This Long-term effect would result in a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.151 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a Substantial change in landscape character. The introduction of large-scale wind energy would affect most of the key characteristics previously described, but this would be more pronounced without the existing context of wind energy development in the area. However, the contrast in scale between the wind turbine sizes would not occur and the overall footprint of wind energy within this LCA would be reduced without SMWF. The magnitude would be Substantial, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills

- 11.152 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA forms one of the two host LCAs within the core of the study area. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this is an elevated, upland landscape rising to the higher Pennine moorlands / plateaux in the north and east of Greater Manchester. The uplands are characterised by expansive peat deposits. Higher elevations are characterised by unenclosed open moorland used for rough grazing. Large-scale wind farms occupy some of the higher moorland areas, notably SMWF and a military Danger Zone is located on the edge of Holcombe.
- 11.153 As described in **Appendix 11.5**, landscape sensitivity is assessed as Medium / Low. There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. Knowl and Rooley Moor are well used for recreation including the Pennine Bridleway (Rooley Moor Road) and Rochdale Way, a short section of Rossendale Way. The value of this LCA is judged to be Regional / Community.
- 11.154 The large-scale nature of the upland moor and foothills includes large-scale wind energy development at SMWF. There is little settlement in this LCA with widespread visibility from neighbouring LCAs and it forms the backdrop to the urban conurbations to the south and south-west. The susceptibility is considered to be Medium / Low.

- 11.155 **Viewpoints 2, 3, 4 and 11** are located within this LCA and the nature of the change at these viewpoints is described in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility of the Project for Assessment would be widespread throughout much of this LCA, concentrated within the core of upland moor with some more limited areas of visibility north of Bury.
- 11.156 The Project for Assessment would result in direct effects on the physical character of this LCA, including the loss of some moorland habitat and the presence of wind turbines, tracks and associated infrastructure. The Project for Assessment includes moorland and peatland habitat improvements (see **Chapter 4: Development Specification** and the **Moorland Restoration and Management Plan**).
- 11.157 This landscape is widely used for recreation, and the proposed wind turbines would be large in scale and in close proximity to Pennine Bridleway / Rooley Moor Road. Although access to recreational pursuits would remain intact, there would be Long-term changes to the panoramic views within and towards this LCA. There would also be reduction on the sense of remoteness and isolation in the northeastern part of this LCA which are not presently as influenced by the existing turbines at SMWF.
- 11.158 The introduction of the proposed wind turbines would appear as a substantial addition of large-scale features within the interior of this moorland plateau part of this LCA. The proposed wind turbines would be noticeably larger in height and scale than the existing adjacent SMWF and would represent a substantial addition to the pattern of wind energy development when perceived from the south.
- 11.159 The sensitivity of LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills is considered to be Medium / Low. The scale of change is considered to be Large across a Wide extent of this LCA. This Long-term and adverse residual effect would result in a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.160 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a substantial change in landscape character. The introduction of wind energy would affect most of the key characteristics previously described without the existing context of wind energy development. However, the contrast in wind turbine scales and overall footprint of wind energy would be reduced. The magnitude of change would be Substantial, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe

- 11.161 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA forms two large-scale units within the study area. One unit encloses the host LCA: A1 and LCA 24, spanning north, west and east. The second unit flanks the valleys to the east of Whitworth and Bacup towards Walsden. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by upland agricultural enclosure high on the edge of smaller fragmented moorland blocks and is a transitional landscape that physically separates the settled valleys from the upland moors.
- 11.162 This landscape includes short sections of the Pennine Bridleway, Rossendale Way, and an extensive network of PRow and places of interest, including Cowpe and Cowm Reservoirs. There are strong links with the industrial economy and history, including quarrying. Semi-natural habitats such as moorland are sparse and fragmented, and stone walls are often in a

poor state of repair. The combination of commonplace elements, mixed condition and recreational pursuits leads to landscape value being assessed as Community.

- 11.163 The open and exposed upland character results in a broad terrace flanking the main valleys fringing the open moors with occasional, more secluded valleys. Land use includes grazing pasture, active and disused quarries, and small-scale conifer plantations. There are frequent long views across the intersecting valleys and operational wind turbines at SMWF or across the valleys to other operational wind farms. Built character is distinctive but limited to isolated farmhouses at the moorland edge. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Medium.
- 11.164 Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium / Low**.
- 11.165 **Viewpoint 7** is located within this LCA, and **Viewpoints 5, 9 and 13** are located at the edge of this LCA. The nature of the change at these viewpoints is described in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be widespread in the unit to the north and falling away to the west. There would also be widespread visibility in the unit to the east across elevated ground between Whitworth and Bacup. The screening ZTVs illustrate very limited visibility at the western fringe of this landscape. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.166 The Project for Assessment would increase the influence and perception of wind energy development within the adjacent South Pennine Moors. Intervening landform, vegetation, and built development would limit the extent of influence within the western fringes. The proposed wind turbines would appear greater in scale than the adjacent SMWF.
- 11.167 The vertical extent of the wind turbines and the rotation of the blades would result in a notable increase in scale, which would contrast with the horizontal skyline. The proposed wind turbines would be clearly noticeable in views, but physical and visual separation would be maintained between the moor fringe of this LCA and the plateau moorland of the host LCAs. The Project for Assessment would result in some reduction in the sense of remoteness and isolation, particularly in eastern parts of this landscape.
- 11.168 The sensitivity of LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe is considered to be Medium / Low. The scale of change would be Large across an Intermediate extent of the two units of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Substantial magnitude of change, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.169 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development in views towards the adjacent South Pennine LCA. The introduction of large-scale wind turbines into the landscape without SMWF would further reduce the more remote qualities of the LCA. The magnitude of change would be considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Significant**.

LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup) (within the Settled Valley LCT)

- 11.170 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA consists of one unit which comprises the entire Settled Valley at Irwell, including the valleys extending north into the Forest of Rossendale and wrapping around Scout Moor / Rooley Moor to the east and west. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by deeply incised narrow valleys that dissect the high plateau moorland with a sense of enclosure and a dense linear pattern of urban settlement.

- 11.171 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. There are strong cultural associations with the industrial heritage, and broadleaved woodlands within the steep valley sides. This is a well-settled landscape, with on-road cycle routes, Irwell Sculpture Trail, parks and an extensive network of PRoW linking the fringes and uplands. Landscape value is assessed as Regional.
- 11.172 The steep, high-sided valley creates an enclosed landscape with linear patterns of urban settlement and woodland. The tall gritstone terraces of weavers' cottages and former textile mills with distinctive chimneys dominate the urban skyline. The South Pennine Moors and Forest of Rossendale form key backdrops to this Settled Valley. Landscape susceptibility is High.
- 11.173 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **High / Medium**.
- 11.174 **Viewpoints 5, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 16** are located within this LCA and the nature of the change at these viewpoints is described in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility within this LCA varies as woodland and buildings would restrict visibility through the valley floor. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.175 The proposed wind turbines would result in a notable increase in the influence and perception of wind energy development within the settled valleys. Pockets of intervening woodland at the southern fringe of this landscape would limit the extent of influence on the backdrop in some areas to the east and south, but the wind turbines would be much more notable across the more elevated slopes of the valleys to the north and east. The proposed wind turbines would be noticeable in views on the skyline in contrast with the steep-sided valley slopes and urban settlement. There would be a notable contrast with the steep-sided valley slopes, whilst the moorland fringe provides some degree of physical separation. The increase in wind energy development would also affect some more remote aspects at the southern and northern edges of this LCA, away from the more urban core.
- 11.176 The sensitivity of LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup) is considered to be High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium across an Intermediate extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.177 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a notable introduction and influence of wind energy on the backdrop of this landscape where there would be no existing context. The magnitude of change would be Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

LCA C1: Rossendale Hills (within the Enclosed Uplands LCT)

- 11.178 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA comprises one unit to the north within the Forest of Rossendale and borders the settled valleys to the south. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by an undulating high plateau distinguished by the geology with outcrops of lower coal measures and millstone grit.
- 11.179 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. Recreational routes within this landscape include the Rossendale Way, Burnley Way and an extensive

network of PRoW on the southern edge, as well as a specific viewpoint at the Singing Ringing Tree sculpture (where there would be no intervisibility). This landscape has strong cultural associations with industrial heritage but is of mixed quality. *'The overall impression is of a somewhat derelict landscape with rush infested pastures and tumbled stone walls'*³⁰. Blanket bog habitat covers the high summits and is an important biodiversity resource. Landscape value is assessed as Regional / Community.

- 11.180 This is a large-scale landscape with expansive views, comprising *'generally a flat landform with only the peat-capped ridges and summits providing pattern and diversity in the landscape... Views of prominent high tension power lines which cross the plateau top reinforce the sense of bleakness'*³⁰. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Low.
- 11.181 Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium / Low**.
- 11.182 **Viewpoints 8 and 10** are located on the eastern end of this LCA and the nature of the change at these viewpoints is described in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that theoretical visibility would be concentrated within the southern and central parts of this LCA. Visibility would be restricted across the western and north-west facing slopes of this LCA. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.183 The proposed wind turbines would result in impacts on the scenic and perceptual qualities of this LCA. The proposed wind turbines would be a notable addition to views over 2km south, clearly contained within the upland plateau of the South Pennine Moors, within the same landscape context as SMWF. **Viewpoints 8 and 10** are located at the nearest southeastern extent of this LCA and there would be a notable increase in the influence of wind energy across the valley, noting that the influence would reduce with greater distance within this LCA.
- 11.184 The sensitivity of LCA C1: Rossendale Hills is considered to be Medium / Low. The scale of change would be Large / Medium (noting more Localised areas of Large) at most across an Intermediate extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Substantial / Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.185 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce new large-scale wind turbines within views to Scout Moor / Rooley Moor, noting that there is other wind energy development both to the east, west and north. Otherwise, the impacts described without SMWF would be similar. The magnitude of change would be Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is **Significant**.

LCA B2: West Pennine Moors (within the Moorland Hills LCT)

- 11.186 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA is part of the wider Moorland Hills LCT and comprises several discrete blocks. In the study area it occurs at Haslingden Moor and Holcombe Moor. As set out in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by rounded moorland hills to the west and north of the main Pennine ridge, dominated by a mosaic of upland habitat and is extensively used for recreation.
- 11.187 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. Peat and blanket bog are important natural habitats, and the moorland tops retain a sense of

remoteness. *'The area is of considerable archaeological importance reflecting past land use and settlement history and has been subject of considerable archaeological research. On the West Pennines the sense of remoteness and wildness is diminished as a result of the relatively small area of the individual moorland block'*³⁰. Accessibility to the moorland and surrounding towns via open access land, the network of PRoW and the Rossendale Way, and Holcombe Moor is within the National Trust Estate and indicates the importance of this landscape as a recreational resource. Landscape value is assessed as Regional.

- 11.188 This is a large-scale and exposed landscape where the landform is soft and more rounded than the sharp edges and ledge of the moorland plateau of the host landscape. There are expansive and panoramic views from the high moorland core across the adjacent urban areas of the Lancashire Plain and the Greater Manchester conurbation. The hills within this LCA form a distinctive backdrop to the surrounding urban areas of Bury, Bolton and Blackburn. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Medium.
- 11.189 Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium**.
- 11.190 **Viewpoint 18** is located within this LCA and the nature of the change at this viewpoint is described in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that theoretical intervisibility would be widespread throughout this LCA except for very limited areas at lower elevations. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.191 The proposed wind turbines would result in some change to the perceptual and scenic qualities across the upland core of this LCA. The proposed wind turbines would appear in long-range views east as a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development beyond SMWF and other more distant turbines. The Haslingden Moor unit is strongly influenced by Hyndburn Wind Farm in the opposite direction. The proposed wind turbines would appear greater in scale than SMWF, and extend the width of the combined array within a separate upland moor landscape across the valley. Impacts on the sense of remoteness and isolation would be limited considering clustering of wind energy on the skyline to the east. There would be very limited impacts on this LCA's contribution as a distinctive backdrop experienced from surrounding landscapes.
- 11.192 The sensitivity of LCA B2: West Pennine Moors is considered to be Medium. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.193 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce wind energy development in views on the skyline to the east of this LCA. From the Holcombe Moor unit, there would be less influence on local landscape by existing wind energy without SMWF, whereas the Haslingden Moor unit would still be influenced by Hyndburn WF. The proposed wind turbines would have some influence on the scenic qualities across most of this upland landscape. This would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Significant** within the Holcombe Moor unit, but not within the Haslingden Moor unit.

LCA D5: Oswaldtwistle & Darwen Moor Fringe (within the Moorland Fringes / Upland Pastures LCT)

- 11.194 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA comprises two units to the west. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by an open upland character that consists of enclosed moorland fringe and upland pastures flanking the main valleys.
- 11.195 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. This landscape is well used for recreational pursuits and includes the Rossendale Way and several PRoW from the numerous paver packhorse routes. The upland character brings a sense of remoteness relative to the urban fringes of Haslingden or Ramsbottom. Natural heritage comprises *'Remnant unimproved upland pastures including colourful species-rich hay meadows and damp pastures are an integral part of the mosaic of upland habitats and are of great importance for nature conservation. Flushed meadows are of special interest.'*³⁰ Landscape value is assessed as Regional / Community.
- 11.196 This is an exposed landscape that retains an open and upland character typically between 250m and 300m AOD on a broad terrace with a dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads. *'A characteristic patchwork of upland pastures including small irregular fields and larger rectangular fields representing a later phase of moorland enclosure.'*³⁰ The built form consists of distinctive millstone grit building stone. There are frequent long views across the intersecting valleys and / or out over the urban conurbations that surround the South Pennines Moors. Taking this into account, landscape susceptibility is assessed as Medium.
- 11.197 Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium**.
- 11.198 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be widespread but limited to between 1-8 turbines across both units of this upland LCA. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.199 The Project for Assessment would result in limited change to the perceptual and scenic qualities of this landscape. The introduction of the proposed wind turbines would appear in long range views to the east and south-east and represent an intensification of wind energy development within the same context as SMWF. The scale of the proposed wind turbines would be greater than the existing turbines in views, but the degree of influence would be restricted by distances over 4km or 8km and partial screening.
- 11.200 The sensitivity of LCA D5: Oswaldtwistle & Darwen Moor Fringe is considered to be Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Wide extent of this LCA. This long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.201 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind turbines in views east and south-east of this LCA. The influence of a wind energy development would result in some influence on the scenic qualities and perceptual associations of this landscape. The magnitude of change would remain Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA G6: River Roch & Tributaries (within the Wooded Rural Valley LCT)

- 11.202 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA comprises one very small linear unit at Deeply Vale contained between LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors Fringes and Foothills to the east and LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe to the west over 4km away from the Project for

Assessment. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by the steep-sided wooded valleys that dissect the South Pennine Moors.

- 11.203 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. There is a network of PRow which is well used for recreation. *'A secluded, 'hidden' intimate and tranquil character created by the incised landform, densely wooded slopes and absence of modern development.'*³⁰ The combination of natural features contributes to the importance of the green infrastructure network and mosaic of habitats. Landscape value is assessed as Regional.
- 11.204 The secluded, intimate character is influenced by deeply incised topography and the complex network of broadleaved woodland is particularly susceptible to change. The complex landscape pattern and topography create a strong sense of enclosure. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as High.
- 11.205 Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity is judged to be **High / Medium**.
- 11.206 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be very limited, restricted further by localised woodland vegetation across most of this LCA. There is a very small area of potential visibility at the southern edge of this landscape. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.207 There would be no visibility within the secluded and more sensitive aspects of this landscape. Limited landscape impacts would result from the introduction of proposed wind turbines in views from the southernmost part of this LCA, where there is a more elevated and open expanse that is not strongly representative of the key characteristics. Where visible, the proposed wind turbines would result in an increase in the influence of wind energy approximately 4.3km north-east, within, and to the south of the operational SMWF cluster.
- 11.208 The sensitivity of LCA G6: River Roch & Tributaries is considered to be High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Limited extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Slight / Negligible magnitude of change, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.209 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind turbines in views from a very limited part of this LCA. There would be no change to the more valued characteristics, and any changes to the scenic quality would be restricted to the southern edge. The magnitude of change would be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA 13: Haslingden Grane (within the Reservoir Valley LCT)

- 11.210 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA comprises one unit to the to the west of Haslingden between the settled valleys / moorland fringe and moorland hills to the west. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by open valley reservoirs with gently sloping sides.
- 11.211 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. The reservoirs are a focal point for recreational pursuits and there is an extensive network of PRow. The mixture of commonplace elements is of limited natural importance. Landscape value is assessed as Community.

- 11.212 This open valley floor consists of a simple pattern and three large reservoirs: Calf Hey, Ogden and Holden Wood, while the valley sides contain a mix of coniferous and broadleaved plantations and open pastures. The built environment is limited to farmsteads, many of which have been abandoned. *'Quarried crags and edges overlook the valley and border the surrounding high moorland.'*³⁰ Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Low.
- 11.213 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Low**.
- 11.214 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be widespread across most of this LCA. However, localised vegetation and built development would limit some visibility at the eastern part of this landscape. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.215 The proposed wind turbines would increase the perception of wind energy across most of this landscape. The proposed wind turbines would become noticeable elements, greater in scale than the existing adjacent operational turbines at SMWF, in open views and extend the influence of the existing SMWF cluster on the skyline within the South Pennine Moor to the south-east 5km – 9km away.
- 11.216 The sensitivity of LCA I3: Haslingden Grane is considered to be Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide / Intermediate extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.217 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the noticeable addition of wind energy, resulting in landscape impacts to the scenic and perceptual qualities. The proposed wind turbines would appear as large-scale elements contained within the uplands of the South Pennine Moor on the skyline across the more open parts of this LCA. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA 20: Affetside and Ainsworth (within the Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes LCT)

- 11.218 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies two units within the Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (West / South Pennines LCT) between Bolton and Bury. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by an elevated upland landscape, is mainly used as agricultural land within the study area and includes the settlement of Ainsworth.
- 11.219 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. The Rotary Way, the extensive network of PROW, reservoirs and golf courses are well-used recreational resources. Whilst there are features of geological and historical importance, these have a relatively limited influence on landscape character. Landscape Value is assessed as Community.
- 11.220 This is a relatively open and exposed landscape where agriculture is the predominant land use across a simple pattern with limited pockets of woodland. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Low.
- 11.221 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Low**.
- 11.222 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility is widespread across the north western facing slopes of this LCA. There is no visibility to the west away from the more

recreated parts of this LCA. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).

- 11.223 The proposed wind turbines would increase the presence and influence of wind energy development in views from this LCA, but the effect on the key characteristics would be relatively limited. The proposed wind turbines would appear in long-range views east as an intensification to the perception of wind energy, already affected by operational turbines at SMWF. The degree of landscape change would be limited by distance at c. 8.5km to the proposed wind turbines and intervening urban development. Whilst the difference in scale would be readily perceived, the proposed wind turbines would be more distant in an area which does not form the focus of views within this landscape. They would be perceived as part of the existing cluster of wind energy development and would not cause a notable increase in landscape impacts.
- 11.224 The sensitivity of LCA 20: Affetside and Ainsworth is considered to be Low. The scale of change would be Small across an Intermediate extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Slight magnitude of change, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.225 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of wind energy clusters to the scenic and perceptual qualities of this landscape. The proposed wind turbines would appear in distant views on the skyline as large-scale elements contained within the uplands of the South Pennine Moor. However, the distance and intervening urban conurbation of Bury would limit the influence on this landscape. The magnitude of change would be Moderate / Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA 22: Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat (within the Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes LCT)

- 11.226 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies two units within the study area between Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat, one of more open moorland and enclosed upland fringe. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA consists of peat-capped ridges and summits as well as upland fringes of semi-improved grassland pasture. The Holcombe unit is an elevated landscape, with broad sweeping uplands, areas with dramatic folds, terraces and slopes and occasional stream valleys. However, the Higher Summerseat unit is a less dramatic hilltop landform. This landscape consists of a network of recreational features and PRoW, and the Holcombe unit retains a sense of openness, remoteness and isolation in parts, whilst the perception of remoteness is often fragmented by urban development and the presence of intrusive infrastructure, including the M62 motorway.
- 11.227 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. Peel Tower is a locally recognised place of interest in the landscape within the Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate. This landscape includes a diverse habitat and green infrastructure network of the mixed broadleaf woodland valley of Buckden Wood, and open moorland of blanket bog and heather. Value is attributed to the ecological networks, cultural associations and the intact network of recreation pursuits. Landscape value is assessed as Regional.
- 11.228 This is a medium to large-scale landscape that consists of farmland across elevated land on the Pennine fringe. This LCA forms the edges of the incised Irwell Valley to the east and Kirklees Valley to the west, is visually prominent in long-distance views and forms an

undeveloped skyline. There are extensive views from this LCA across the wider landscape which includes the presence of existing SMWF on the skyline to the east. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Medium.

11.229 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium**.

11.230 **Viewpoint 17** is located within this LCA and **Viewpoints 18** and **19** are on the edges of this LCA and serve as good proxies. The scale of landscape change from these viewpoints is described in detail in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be widespread in Higher Summerseat and would be concentrated to the eastern part of the Holcombe to Greenmount unit, which mostly consists of the Holcombe and Stubbins Estate. Beyond this, there would be no visibility. Visibility would occur across all of the Higher Summerseat unit. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).

11.231 The proposed wind turbines would be located 4.4km – 9km from this LCA and would result in an intensification of wind energy development across part of the skyline in combination with SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would slightly extend the influence of wind energy in panoramic views north of SMWF and would be perceived as part of the existing cluster of wind energy within the South Pennine Moors and Rooley Moor. Proposed turbines (T14 and T15) would be more notable from elevated vantage points on recreational trails at and near Peel Tower. This would result in some perceived change to the perceptual qualities and associations in long-range views east from this landscape. The proposed wind turbines would appear greater in scale but contained within the same cluster of operational turbines at SMWF but the difference in height would not be so apparent towards the south of this LCA.

11.232 The sensitivity of LCA 22: Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat is considered to be Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Wide / Intermediate extent of this LCA to the west and south-west within 4km – 8km within the same context as SMWF. This Long-term change would lead to a Moderate / Slight magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.233 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a noticeable addition of large-scale wind turbines on the skyline and would affect the perceptual and scenic qualities from more elevated areas. The magnitude of change would be Moderate resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

LCA 23: River Irwell (north Bury) and Kirklees (within the Incised Urban Fringe Valleys LCT)

11.234 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies two linear units to the west from the wooded edge to the urban settlement. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by incised urban fringe valleys cutting through rolling hills.

11.235 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. The valleys have strong cultural association with industrial heritage and are well used as a recreational resource - served by numerous PROWs and the Irwell Sculpture Trail. The linear belt of habitats and woodlands creates important wildlife corridors and green infrastructure functions. Landscape value is assessed as Regional.

- 11.236 The narrow incised valleys consist of complex river tributaries and riparian woodland which create a strong sense of enclosure. These valleys are characterised by settlement and views are typically contained by the steep valley sides and woodlands. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Medium.
- 11.237 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium**.
- 11.238 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that the theoretical bare ground visibility would be widespread across the Kirklees unit but much less visibility from the North Bury unit of this LCA. The screening ZTVs illustrate a considerable reduction in theoretical visibility. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.239 The Project for Assessment would result in some limited influence on the scenic qualities of this LCA. The steep valley sides and enclosed nature of most of this LCA would substantially restrict influence on landscape character within both units of this LCA. Where visible, the proposed wind turbines would be perceived as a slight intensification of wind energy development in a distant landscape 5km – 10km to the east within the same context as SMWF. Despite the greater scale of the proposed wind turbines, they would appear at a similar height on the skyline, the influence on local character would be limited, and most of the key characteristics would not be affected.
- 11.240 The sensitivity of LCA 23: River Irwell (north Bury) and Kirklees is considered to be Medium. The scale of change would be Small / Negligible across a Localised extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Slight / Negligible magnitude of change, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.241 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a very limited influence on the scenic qualities of this landscape. The introduction of wind energy development in views would be substantially restricted by landform and vegetation. Where visible, the proposed wind turbines would not be located within the most valued parts of the views from this LCA. The magnitude of change would be Slight resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA 25: River Roch (within the Incised Urban Fringe Valleys LCT)

- 11.242 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies several units to the southwest of Rochdale. The largest unit forms the river corridor between Rochdale and Heywood but there is also a very small area to the north-west of Rochdale along the Naden Brook. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by narrow incised valleys at the urban fringe centred on the River Roch.
- 11.243 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. The linear belt of habitats and woodlands create important wildlife corridors and green infrastructure function. There are a limited number of PROW, and therefore, it is not as well recreated as similar landscapes. The nearby M66 corridor limits the sense of isolation across most of this landscape. Landscape value is assessed as Regional / Community.
- 11.244 The narrow incised valleys consist of complex river tributaries that are traced by riparian woodland, which creates a strong sense of enclosure. Views are typically contained by the steep valley sides and woodlands. Away from the river corridor, there are some more open,

medium-scale flat areas of improved pasture with longer views to Harcles Hill and Peel Tower Monument. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Medium / High.

11.245 Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium**.

11.246 **Viewpoint 21** is located at the southern edge of one of the more distant units of this LCA, and the scale of landscape change from these viewpoints is described in detail in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that theoretical visibility is heavily restricted by landform. The screening ZTVs illustrate the effect of woodland screening throughout most of the larger unit of this LCA to the south-west. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).

11.247 The wooded river corridors through the core of this LCA would substantially restrict visibility and subsequent influence on landscape character within this LCA as a whole. Where visible from more open agricultural areas, the proposed wind turbines would be perceived as an extension of wind energy development in a distant landscape 3.8km – 11km to the north-east within the same context as SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would appear notably greater in scale than the existing turbines at SMWF and Crook Hill and would be perceived as additional large-scale features on the distant skyline. Visibility would not occur within the more valued areas or in the focus of views to Harcles Hill and Peel Tower. There would be very limited impact on the key characteristics.

11.248 The sensitivity of LCA 25: River Roch is considered to be Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Localised extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Slight magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.249 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would add to the influence of wind energy development on part of the moorland skyline which would not already contain wind energy, but there would still be some presence in other parts of the moorland backdrop. Without SMWF, the overall influence of wind energy would be reduced. The magnitude of change would be Slight resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA 26: Prettywood, Pilsworth and Unsworth Moss (within the Mosslands and Lowland Farmland LCT)

11.250 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies two units to the south, adjacent to the M66 corridor to the east of Bury. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by lowland farmland.

11.251 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. This reclaimed farmland landscape consists of commonplace elements and is of mixed quality and intactness. The motorway corridor and nearby urban development limit any sense of remoteness. There are a few PRow which indicate a local use of amenity and recreation. Landscape value is assessed as Community.

11.252 The landform is low-level, generally flat or gently undulating and consists of open farmland with small pockets of woodland along the motorway corridor or valley edges. Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Low.

11.253 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Low**.

- 11.254 **Viewpoint 20** is located within this LCA, and the scale of landscape change from this viewpoint is described in detail in **Appendix 11.4. Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that theoretical visibility would occur throughout each of the units of this LCA. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.255 The Project for Assessment would result in some change to the broader landscape context and scenic qualities of this LCA. The open and flat landform would result in visibility and subsequent influence on landscape character. Notable landscape impacts would result from views of the proposed wind turbines in the moorland backdrop from open agricultural areas. These proposed wind turbines would be perceived as an extension of wind energy development adjacent to SMWF in South Pennine moor landscape to the north-east 6.5km – 12km. **Viewpoint 20** illustrates that the proposed wind turbines would appear notably greater in scale than the existing turbines at SMWF and Crooks Hill as additional large-scale features on the skyline.
- 11.256 The sensitivity of 26: Prettywood, Pilsworth and Unsworth Moss is considered to be Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.257 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would add the influence of wind energy development to the moorland backdrop, closer than Crooks Hill but not uncharacteristic of the moorland backdrop. The magnitude of change would be Moderate resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- LCA 27: Simster, Slattocks and Healds Green (within the Urban Fringe Farmland LCT)
- 11.258 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies one large unit either side of the M62, south of Rochdale / Heywood. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by urban fringe rolling farmland with recreational and industrial land uses.
- 11.259 The M62 motorway passes through the centre of this LCA, which limits any sense of tranquillity or remoteness. The Rochdale Way, network of PRow, and several golf courses indicate this landscape is locally well used for recreation. Field boundaries are often poor and, although there are some habitats of importance, have limited influence on landscape character. Landscape value is assessed as Community.
- 11.260 The more elevated rolling farmland is of exposed open character and consists of large to medium-scale fields in a simplistic pattern. There are wide panoramic views from high points over the Greater Manchester conurbation. *‘Transport corridors and pylon lines are very apparent, with the lack of tree cover within the rolling open farmland leaving the large roads and motorway visually exposed and audible.’*³¹ Landscape susceptibility is assessed as Low.
- 11.261 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Low**.
- 11.262 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8 and 11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be widespread throughout most of this LCA with some exception for pockets of woodland near Manchester Golf Course. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).

- 11.263 The Project for Assessment would result in some change to the broader landscape context and scenic qualities of this LCA. The proposed wind turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north within the upland moor, clearly separated by the intervening expanse of urban development and rural fringe. The proposed wind turbines would extend the influence of wind energy as a new cluster to the immediate east of SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would appear noticeably greater in scale than existing turbines at SMWF and Crooks Hill. Effects on landscape character would be more notable in the northern part of this LCA within 5.5km to 7.0km along sections of the Rochdale Way and diminish quickly with distance beyond 8.0km to 12.8km.
- 11.264 The sensitivity of LCA 27: Simster, Slattocks and Healds Green is considered to be Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.265 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would add the influence of wind energy development on the moorland backdrop, closer than Crook Hill. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA 28: Rochdale and Oldham South Pennine Foothills (within the Pennine Foothills (West/South Pennines) LCT)

- 11.266 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies three units across the South Pennine Foothills. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this is a transitional landscape strongly influenced by rolling and undulating hills from the northern fringes of Greater Manchester towards the uplands of the South and West Pennines.
- 11.267 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. Landscape elements are commonplace and the natural and cultural associations are of limited importance to the character of this landscape. The Rochdale Way, extensive network of PRoW, and reservoirs and golf clubs indicate this LCA is well used for recreation. Landscape value is assessed as Community.
- 11.268 The simple landscape pattern and predominant pastoral land use across medium enclosures with quarries and reservoirs are less susceptible. *'Variable visual character depending on topography and vegetation cover; there are long views across the urban conurbation to the West and South Pennine uplands beyond where vegetation allows. Areas within the Peak District National Park are visible from some vantage points. Other areas are visually enclosed due to valleys or vegetation which creates wooded skylines.'*³¹ Landscape susceptibility is assessed as **Low**.
- 11.269 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Low**.
- 11.270 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be widespread throughout most of this LCA with some exception for the area around and to the south of Tandle Hill Country Park. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).
- 11.271 The proposed wind turbines would result in some change to the scenic qualities due to the increased influence of wind energy development across part of the moorland backdrop in

long-range views north-west. There is visibility of both SMWF and Crook Hill from open views, as well as more distant turbines to the north. The increased scale of the proposed wind turbines compared to SMWF would be a notable addition to the moorland backdrop and would be perceived as a large-scale extension of wind energy development to the east of SMWF, leading to some change to the scenic qualities of this landscape. However, Crook Hill would be closer to the unit at Hollingworth Lake and the proposed wind turbines would appear a similar size to the Crook Hills turbines, given the increased separation distance. This is also moderated by intervening urban development, more so across the landscape units to the south. Landscape impacts in this LCA would be more notable within 5.5km to 8km. The prominence of the proposed wind turbines would decrease with distance for the units south of the M62.

11.272 The sensitivity of LCA 28: Rochdale and Oldham South Pennine Foothills is considered to be Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide / Intermediate extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.273 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would be seen as a notable new feature in views north-west on the skyline beyond the urban conurbation to the west of Knowl Moor as a separate cluster of large-scale wind energy development. The magnitude of change would be Moderate resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

LCA 29: Rough Hill to Brun Moor (within the Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes LCT)

11.274 As shown in **Figure 11.9**, this LCA occupies one large unit to the south-east. As noted in **Appendix 11.3**, this LCA is characterised by open moorland and enclosed upland fringes.

11.275 There are no local or national landscape designations coinciding with this LCA. This landscape is very well used for recreation via the Pennine Bridleway, Pennine Way, Rochdale Way, a short section of Oldham Way, an extensive network of PRow, and reservoirs. There are cultural and natural heritage features that are of some importance to landscape character. The value of this LCA is judged to be Regional.

11.276 This large-scale landscape includes a mix of unenclosed moorland at higher elevations, semi-improved pasture across the upland fringes with some unimproved pastures. This landscape *'forms an attractive, undeveloped remote backdrop to and has a strong visual relationship with nearby urban areas'*. The susceptibility of this LCT is judged to be Low.

11.277 Considering value and susceptibility together the sensitivity is judged to be **Medium / Low**.

11.278 **Figures 11.5 – 11.8** and **11.12** illustrate that the theoretical visibility would be somewhat limited in the northernmost part of this LCA between Whitworth and Littleborough but more widespread in other parts of this LCA. There would be no change to the physical characteristics of this landscape (indirect effects only).

11.279 The Project for Assessment would result in an increased influence on the scenic qualities of this landscape from the upland / elevated areas. The proposed wind turbines would extend the cluster of wind energy development to the east of SMWF and would be noticeably larger than the existing adjacent turbines at SMWF. However, the northern part of this LCA is host to Crook Hill WF, which has an influence on many parts of this LCA, more so than the existing

SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would be perceived as a notable increase in wind energy development within the upland South Pennine Moors. The influence of proposed wind turbines would drop away quickly beyond 7km due to urban settlement and landform.

11.280 The sensitivity of LCA 29: Rough Hill to Brun Moor is considered to be Medium / Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across an Intermediate extent of this LCA. This Long-term effect would lead to a Moderate magnitude of change, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.281 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would be seen as a notable new feature in views north-west on the skyline. The proposed wind turbines would be perceived as another cluster of large-scale wind energy development within the upland South Pennine Moors. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.282 All mitigation for operational stage effects has been embedded within the design as primary or tertiary mitigation and no further secondary mitigation or enhancement has been identified.

Residual effects

11.283 In the absence of secondary mitigation, the residual effect for all receptors is the same as that reported in the pre-mitigation scenario.

Significance

11.284 The application of micro-siting would not change the level of effects reported for landscape effects.

11.285 In terms of the operational stage, there would be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant** effects on the two host landscapes, LCA A1: South Pennine Moors and LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills, as well as adjacent landscapes of LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe, LCA F1: Irwell Settled Valley (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup), and LCA C1: Rossendale Hills Enclosed Uplands. There would be a Moderate effect on LCA B2: West Pennine Moors and LCA 22: Holcombe and Higher Summerseat Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes, which would be **Not Significant** with current baseline but **Significant** within Holcombe Moor units of both in the Restored Baseline Scenario. The significant effects with the current baseline would be contained within approximately 6km – 7km and significant effects with the future baseline without SMWF would extend these out to approximately 8km to the north and west. The effect on other LCAs would be Moderate or less and **Not Significant**.

Changes in views / visual amenity

11.286 This assessment focuses on the effect of the Project for Assessment on groups of visual receptors. The assessment of effects focuses on the visual amenity from public spaces, though views from groups of dwellings may also be noted in the descriptions. The visual receptor groups focus on areas where there would be visibility of the Project for Assessment and likely significant effects. There are some more distant visual receptors where effects are unlikely to be greater than Minor, and these are not considered in detail.

11.287 Effects on all visual receptors are considered to be 'direct' due to the change in views as a result of the Project for Assessment.

Settlements within 10km

11.288 The following assessment focusses on the impacts on local communities within approximately 10km as stated in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 2.1**), as this is where the bulk of the significant effects would be likely to occur. However, the local area is very densely populated, particularly to the south and the visual impacts would extend beyond this area, but considering the urban context of existing views, are unlikely to be considered significant.

11.289 These visual receptor groups are generally assessed as being of High susceptibility to the Project for Assessment and of Community value, resulting in a **High / Medium** sensitivity to the Project for Assessment, unless stated otherwise. Effects on private residential visual amenity are assessed separately in the **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)**.

Norden and Wolstenholme

11.290 Norden and Wolstenholme are located approximately 2.6km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise local residents in and around the settlements, recreational users of PRoW and local greenspace, and users of local roads. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility of most of the wind turbines with more variation in the number of hubs visible. The Shawfield area would be more screened due to local landform, with more extensive visibility from further west towards Wolstenholme, although even that would be variable. The screened ZTVs illustrate some reduction in visibility, and very few areas would experience views of the whole array. Urban development within the core of the settlements would restrict views to most of the proposed wind turbines. As illustrated by **Viewpoint 14**, the proposed wind turbines would be visible in two groups, one associated with the existing SMWF, and the other (T6, T7, T8 and T11) as an adjacent cluster to the south-east. The proposed wind turbines viewed in the same context as SMWF would appear as a limited intensification in wind energy development. However, the cluster of turbines to the south-east would be very noticeable as a new grouping on the skyline to the north. The scale of the rotating wind turbines would draw the eye and would be a notable addition from some more open views at the northern edge of the settlement. Where there is intervening built development, the wind turbines would be visible but not a focal point in the background. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.291 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered **Significant**.

11.292 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a noticeable introduction of wind energy development on the skyline where there would be no existing context. Several wind turbines and blade tips would be very obvious in close proximity on the skyline, and prominent from the northern edge of this settlement. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered **Significant**.

Rochdale

11.293 Rochdale is located approximately 2.5km south-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise local residents in and around the settlement, recreational users of PRoW and local greenspace, and users of local roads. The bare earth ZTVs indicate widespread visibility within Rochdale. However, screening by tree cover and buildings would result in less visibility from large areas within the urban core and the northernmost areas, the latter of which would be further screened by vegetation. There are many elevated residential streets with more open views north, where Knowl Moor is a distinctive feature on the horizon to the north. When open views are available, most of the proposed wind turbines would be visible across part of the skyline above buildings and vegetation in views north-west, adjacent to SMWF, where operational turbines are already a noticeable feature. Whilst the proposed wind turbines would be similar in distance, they would be much larger in scale. The contrast in scale of turbines between the proposed wind turbines and operational SMWF would be noticeable. The Project for Assessment would result in an enlarged cluster of wind energy development on the horizon but mostly incidental to the focus of views within this settlement, which is generally characterised by built form. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.294 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on this receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.295 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a very noticeable introduction of large-scale wind energy development on the skyline where there would be no existing context. Many of the proposed wind turbines would be very noticeable features on the skyline above Knowl Moor. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered **Significant**.

Catley Lane Head

11.296 Catley Lane Head is located approximately 1.5km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises a few scattered residents, local road users, PRoW and trail users at the southern edge of Rooley Moor Road between Rochdale and Whitworth. All of this receptor group is included in the RVAA (refer to the **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)** for further detail). However, the assessment below considers the impact on this small community.

11.297 The outlook from the settlement is varied, with open views across the rising moorland plateau of Rooley Moor to the north and expansive views south across the urban conurbation of Rochdale. Operational turbines at SMWF have limited influence. Some very limited sections of local lanes are enclosed by roadside embankments. The ZTVs illustrate that visibility would be variable but in some locations most of the proposed wind turbines would be visible. **Viewpoints 2** and **3** illustrate that some of the proposed wind turbines would be prominent large-scale features in views north across some parts of this group. **Viewpoints CH02** and **CH07** also illustrate the scale of the proposed wind turbines and the degree of contrast with existing features in views from other locations within this group. There are also photowires at R47, R48, R50, R53, and R54 included within the RVAA which would be representative of this group and illustrate the range of views from this community.

The appearance of the proposed wind turbines would substantially affect the visual amenity for many properties. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.298 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large across a Wide extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.299 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), there would be no difference in the magnitude and level of effect. The magnitude of change would be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Whitworth

11.300 Whitworth is situated approximately 1.2km east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises local residents in Whitworth (including Facit, Hallfold, Wallbank, Tonacliffe and Broadley), recreational users of PRoW in and around the settlement, and local road users. All of this receptor group is included within the RVAA (refer to **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)** for further detail). However, the assessment below considers the impact on the community.

11.301 Only some operational blade tips at SMWF are perceptible in views from this group. Views within this group range from low-level outlooks channelled along the valley floor / A671, to more open and expansive outlooks across the valley either east or west. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility, whereas the screening ZTVs indicate that visibility in the core of the settlement would be patchy in places due to views being restricted by buildings. Where views to the west would be gained within the settlements, including from dwellings (including upper floor windows), gardens, PRoW, open spaces and roads these would include some or all of the proposed wind turbines.

11.302 **Viewpoint 6** illustrates views from the more elevated residential area where the full array of proposed wind turbines would be a substantial addition and, in one group, across a wide extent of the western skyline. **Viewpoint 9** illustrates the view from Lobden Golf Course at the eastern edge of Whitworth, where the proposed wind turbines would be apparent across the valley within a wide extent. The proposed wind turbines would appear much greater in scale than features within the valley including the overhead transmission line and the more distant operational turbines at SMWF. There are also photowires at R29, R30, and R39 included within the RVAA which would be representative of this group and illustrate the range of views from this community. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has noticeably reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.303 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large across a Wide extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would result in a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.304 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), impacts would be very similar to those previously assessed with SMWF. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Bacup

- 11.305 Bacup is located approximately 1.8km north of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises residents in the settlement of Bacup including Rockcliffe, Greave, and Britannia, local roads and PRoW users in and around the settlement, users of Maden Recreational Ground and Stubblelee Park. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility across most of this group. The southernmost extent of this receptor group is also included in the RVAA (refer to **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)** for further detail). However, the assessment below considers the impact on the community.
- 11.306 The screening ZTVs illustrate that visibility would be more restricted within the core of the settlement, which would be true in places but site surveys indicate views of proposed wind turbines would be gained from most parts of the settlement, including from upper floor rooms. There would be more open outlooks from elevated locations on the rising slopes of the settlement as illustrated by **Viewpoints 8, 10 and 16**. There is also a photowire at R19 included within the RVAA which would be representative of this group. There are some areas at the southern edge of this group where views would be more enclosed by localised vegetation and steeply rising landform, but when the moorland skyline would be visible it would include views to the proposed wind turbines as well. There are views to other wind turbines in different parts of the view including Reaps Moss, Todmorden and Crook Hill, sometimes at a closer distance than the Project for Assessment.
- 11.307 The proposed wind turbines would be a prominent addition across a wide horizontal extent of views south across much of the moorland skyline. From some locations, turbines (T10, T16, T4 and T3) to the south-east would appear as a closely arranged cluster across part of the view whilst other turbines would appear more evenly spaced. The scale of the proposed wind turbines would be apparent in contrast with the existing SMWF turbines and other features in views, resulting in a substantial alteration. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the stacking as seen from parts of Bacup.
- 11.308 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large across a Wide extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would result in a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.309 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would be a very prominent feature across a wide horizontal and vertical extent of views south with little change to the context of SMWF, as other wind turbines are often visible in different directions. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Significant**.

Newchurch and Stacksteads

- 11.310 Newchurch and Stacksteads are situated approximately 1.1km north of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises residents and local road users accessing the settlements of Newchurch and Stacksteads within the Irwell Valley, as well as the PRoW in and around the settlements. Many of the residents within Stacksteads (southern part of this receptor group), are also included within the RVAA (refer to **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)** for further detail). However, the assessment below considers the impact on the community.

11.311 Some wind turbines and blade tips at SMWF are visible on the skyline to the south. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate there would be theoretical visibility across most of this group. As illustrated by the screening ZTVs, localised buildings, vegetation and settlement would partly restrict views within the core of the settlement along the A681 and along the wooded River Irwell corridor. There would be open views of most of the proposed wind turbines from elevated dwellings to the north and often views from upper storey windows from most of the properties. Fewer turbines would be visible from the network of minor roads, PRoW, trails, public open spaces and ground floor / gardens of residential dwellings towards the southernmost edge of the settlement. **Viewpoint 12** is located within this group and illustrates the maximum visibility from the village. Up to eight turbine hubs and a few blade tips would be visible as two groups on either side of three operational turbines at SMWF although localised vegetation would screen turbines in some locations. There is also a photowire at R19 included within the RVAA which would be representative of this group. The proposed wind turbines would be a very prominent addition to the skyline and the rotation of the wind turbines would draw the eye. The remaining proposed wind turbines would appear on the horizon but would often be further screened by landform. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.312 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large across a Wide extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.313 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), impacts would be similar to those previously assessed with SMWF. In the absence of SMWF, the proposed wind turbines may appear as two groups from some locations. The magnitude of change would be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Cowpe

11.314 Cowpe is situated approximately 1km north of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises residents of Cowpe and Boarsgreave, and users of local roads, PRoWs and trails accessing the settlement. Most of the residents in this receptor group are also included within the RVAA (refer to **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)** for further detail). However, this is considering the overall impact on the community. The ZTVs illustrate that up to eight wind turbines would be visible across most of this group. **Viewpoint 5** illustrates the array of the proposed wind turbines would be prominent across a wide extent of the southern skyline above the steep-sided valleys and alongside a few blade tips at SMWF. There are also several photowires included within the RVAA which are representative of this group. The proposed wind turbines would become a new focal feature within the village, much more so than SMWF. T11, T8, T14 and T15 would be most notable above the horizon, whilst the remaining turbines would tend to be partly screened by landform. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible on the skyline.

11.315 Visibility across the village would vary, as illustrated in the ZTVs, with consistently more open views from either upper floor windows or sections of PRoW which connect the village with the moor or the Irwell Valley. There are also a few dwellings with more elevated locations, which would obtain more open views.

11.316 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium (noting this is a different level of sensitivity in the community context compared to the private context). The scale of change would be Large across a Wide extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Significant**.

11.317 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), visual effects would be similar to the assessment with SMWF, given the more limited influence of SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would result in a Substantial magnitude of change, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Rawtenstall

11.318 Rawtenstall is located approximately 4.5km north-west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises residents at Rawtenstall and along the A682 (including Goodshaw, Crawshawbooth, Reeds Holme) local road users accessing the settlement and users of PRow and open spaces. The village is located within the Irwell Valley and is enclosed by steep landform. A few of the SMWF turbines are visible on the skyline to the south.

11.319 The bare earth ZTVs illustrate that visibility would be limited to the more elevated slopes north of the A681. **Viewpoint 15** illustrates the visual context of the settled valley and steep-sided slopes of the moorland fringe. The proposed wind turbines would appear as prominent large-scale features on the skyline above the moorland fringe, adjacent to operational SMWF. Other wind turbines such as those at Crook Hill and Reaps Moss are also visible in the distance. The moorland fringe would serve to screen many of the turbines from this settlement, but some wind turbines would be present in views from part of the settlement. Given the degree of screening by landform and distance from the Project for Assessment, there would only be a more limited influence on the community, than others within the Irwell Valley. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.320 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Major/Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.321 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), effects would be similar to those previously assessed with SMWF and the Project for Assessment would be a noticeable addition to the skyline from the more elevated parts of this settlement. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Haslingden

11.322 Haslingden is located approximately 4.2km north-west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise local residents in and around the settlement, recreational users of PRow and local greenspace and users of local roads. Operational turbines at SMWF are visible on the skyline.

11.323 The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread potential visibility within the settlement, with some areas at the western and northern edge of this group with no visibility. However, the

screened hub and blade tip ZTVs illustrate that there would be much less visibility within the core of the settlement. There is an illustrative wireline from the B6232 in Haslingden, within **Appendix 11.7**. Where there would be more open views, to some of the turbines on the skyline to the south-east on the moorland, adjacent to SMWF, with other wind turbines less likely to be noticeable from this settlement. The rotation of proposed wind turbines and the scale difference of different existing turbine sizes visible would be noticeable on the horizon, set back within the upland moors. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.324 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across an Intermediate / Localised extent of this receptor group. This Long-term change would lead to a Moderate / Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.325 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a noticeable introduction of wind energy development on the skyline where there would be no existing context. Three wind turbines (mainly T10, T11 and T15) would be clearly noticeable above the skyline with the blade tips of a few other turbines less noticeable. The magnitude of change is considered to be Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered **Significant**.

Edenfield

11.326 Edenfield is situated approximately 2.8km west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises residents of Edenfield, road users and recreational users of PRoW in and around the settlement. Bare earth and screening ZTVs illustrate widespread coverage of low numbers of wind turbines across this group. There would be a very limited area within the core of the settlement where there would be no visibility.

11.327 As illustrated by **Viewpoint 13**, one turbine (T15) and one blade tip would be clearly visible on the skyline within the same context as SMWF. The proposed wind turbine and blade tip would appear similar in overall height to the existing wind turbines and read as a limited extension. Some parts of this group would experience more open views of a few more turbines, but usually in the context of SMWF. More blade tips would be perceptible from more open outlooks at Dearden Fold and Gincroft Lane. The Project for Assessment would appear as a slightly enlarged cluster of the existing SMWF.

11.328 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Wide extent of this group and would appear as a limited extension to the existing views of wind turbines. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Moderate / Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.329 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a limited but clearly noticeable introduction of wind energy development in views where there would be no existing context. The small number of turbines visible would be perceptible on the skyline above the upland moor. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered **Significant**.

Ramsbottom

11.330 Ramsbottom is located approximately 4km south-west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This receptor group comprises residents of Ramsbottom (including Shuttleworth, Stubbins, Nuttall), road users and recreational users of PRoW, and the settlements. The bare earth and screening ZTVs illustrate widespread coverage of low numbers of wind turbines across this group, with some areas to the west where a few more wind turbines would be theoretically visible. There would be no theoretical visibility in some smaller areas of residential development between the M66 and Manchester Road. There is an illustrative wireline from Ramsbottom, within **Appendix 11.7**. A few (mainly T14 and T15) of the proposed wind turbines would be visible on the skyline above the moorland fringe behind Fletcher Bank Quarry and operational turbines at SMWF. The Project for Assessment would intensify views of wind energy development on the skyline and the proposed wind turbines would appear much larger than the SMWF. Intervening landform and localised vegetation would limit the extent of visibility within this group. The existing presence of SMWF limits the scale of change.

11.331 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across an Intermediate extent. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.332 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce new large-scale wind energy development in views east, where there would be no existing context of wind energy development. Three turbines would be clearly visible along with blade tips of a few other wind turbines would appear as a noticeable array on the skyline above the moorland fringe. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Greenmount and Summerseat

11.333 Greenmount and Summerseat are located approximately 6.4km south-west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise local residents in and around the settlements of Greenmount and Summerseat, recreational users of PRoW and local greenspace, and users of local roads. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility within most of this group, with a greater number of turbines potentially visible in Greenmount and fewer in Summerseat. The screened ZTVs illustrate some reduction in visibility within Summerseat Nature Reserve and several residential streets in Greenmount. **Viewpoint 19** is representative of views experienced throughout this group, where views of Peel Tower Monument and SMWF are notable features on the skyline to the north and north-east. The Project for Assessment would be visible as a full array within the same grouping as SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would appear behind the smaller SMWF turbines. The scale difference would be noticeable and would represent an intensification of the existing array which would increase the density of wind energy visible though would not extend it.

11.334 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change is considered to be Medium / Small across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on this receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be **Not Significant**.

11.335 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a noticeable introduction of large-scale wind energy development on the skyline to the north-east, set above the uplands of the South Pennine Moors. The magnitude of change would be considered to be Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered **Significant**.

Bury and Tottington

11.336 Bury and Tottington are located over 6km south-west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise local residents in and around the settlements of, recreational users of PRoW and local greenspace, and users of local roads. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility within this group, with a greater number of turbines potentially visible in Tottington and the western side of Bury. The screened ZTVs illustrate notable reduction in visibility. There is an illustrative wireline at Tottington and at Burrs Country Park, Bury with **Appendix 11.7**. The Project for Assessment would be visible as a full array within the same grouping as SMWF from highest ground and from the valley locations they would be heavily screened by landform. The proposed wind turbines would appear behind the smaller SMWF turbines. The scale difference would be noticeable and would represent an intensification of the existing array which would increase the density of wind energy visible though would not extend it.

11.337 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change is considered to be Medium / Small across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on this receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be **Not Significant**.

11.338 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a noticeable introduction of large-scale wind energy development on the skyline to the north-east, set above the uplands of the South Pennine Moors. The magnitude of change would be considered to be Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered **Significant**.

Hooley Bridge and Heywood

11.339 Hooley Bridge and Heywood are situated approximately 5.7km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise local residents in and around the settlements of Hooley Bridge and Heywood, recreational users of PRoW and local greenspace, and users of local roads. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility across the whole group. The screened ZTVs illustrate some areas of restricted visibility due to the urban massing of development. Woodland corridors (Lomax Wood) along the River Roch would truncate views north at the northern edge of this group. Theoretical visibility at the northern edge of Hooley Bridge would be more restricted. Open views north towards the backcloth of Knowl Moor and Knowl Hill are commonplace and where these occur, the proposed wind turbines would be noticeable features behind and adjacent to existing turbines at SMWF. **Viewpoint 20** is located just to the west of this settlement to obtain more open, uninterrupted views towards the Project for Assessment. The scale difference between the smaller turbines at SMWF and the proposed wind turbines would be noticeable. The Project for Assessment would appear as an extension to the cluster of wind energy development on the skyline in views north. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.340 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change is considered to be Medium across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on this receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.341 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in a more noticeable change with the introduction of large-scale wind energy development across a wide extent of the background view to the north. However, without SMWF the scale difference of wind turbines would not occur and the density of turbines would be much less. However, the magnitude of change would increase to Substantial / Moderate resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect and **Significant**.

Secondary mitigation and enhancement

11.342 All mitigation for operational stage effects has been embedded within the design as primary or tertiary mitigation and no further secondary mitigation or enhancement has been identified.

Residual effects

11.343 In the absence of secondary mitigation, the residual effect for all receptors is the same as that reported in the pre-mitigation scenario.

Significance

11.344 There would be **Major** adverse and **Significant** effects on the communities of Whitworth, scattered residents around Catley Lane Head, Bacup, Newchurch, Stackstead and Cowpe with both the Existing Baseline Scenario and Restored Baseline Scenario. For those in the communities of Norden Wolstenholme, Rochdale, Rawtenstall, Haslingden, and Heywood / Hooley Bridge, there would be a Moderate adverse with the Existing Baseline Scenario and **Major / Moderate** adverse with the Restored Baseline Scenario with the effect in both scenarios being considered **Significant**. For those communities at Haslingden and Ramsbottom, the effect with the Existing Baseline Scenario would be **Moderate** adverse and **Not Significant**, but with the Restored Baseline Scenario, the **Moderate** effect would remain but would be considered **Significant**. At Edenfield, the effect would be Moderate adverse and **Not Significant** in both the Existing Baseline Scenario and Restored Baseline Scenario.

Recreational Routes and Places of Interest within the Landscape

11.345 The following assessment focusses on those recreational receptors most likely to be significantly affected, as set out within EIA Scoping. The recreational places of interest are assessed first, followed by the key recreational routes, which are illustrated on a combination tip and hub height ZTV in **Figure 11.13**.

11.346 It is recognised that this area is used as a recreational resource both locally but also regionally. These visual receptor groups are generally assessed as being of High susceptibility to the Project for Assessment and of Regional value, resulting in a **High / Medium** sensitivity to the Project for Assessment, unless stated otherwise.

11.347 The local area is very densely populated, particularly to the south with numerous country parks and public open spaces; and to the north, west and east there would be extensive long distance views from the summits / plateaux of moorland areas. Therefore, visual impacts would extend beyond the receptors of this assessment, but in the urban and cumulative context of existing views, they would be unlikely / not significant.

Users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor

- 11.348 This receptor group is located within the Assessment Boundary and comprises recreational users of local and national trails and open access land across Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor. This also includes several well-recreated reservoirs (Naden Upper, Middle and Lower Reservoirs, Greenbooth Reservoir, and Spring Mill Reservoir) and a network of bridleways and tracks, as well as dedicated mountain bike trails at Cragg Quarry. The impact on the Pennine Bridleway is considered separately.
- 11.349 There are varied outlooks throughout this area. There are panoramic views from more elevated locations within the moor across the urban conurbations of Greater Manchester to the south and settled valleys to the west, north and east. Close to medium range views of operational turbines at SMWF mean they are prominent features within views across most of this moor, with some exceptions to the north-east, south-east and east where landform restricts views of wind turbines. The bare earth and screened ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility across most of this group, noting that the number of the turbines visible would be more limited towards the Naden Upper, Middle and Lower Reservoirs.
- 11.350 The Project for Assessment would substantially add to the presence of large-scale wind turbines in views throughout the Moor. **Viewpoints 1, 3 and 4** illustrate open views of proposed wind turbines within the same context as existing operational wind turbines. **Viewpoint 25** illustrates the view of the substation, from a very localised area of the moors. The proposed wind turbines would be very noticeable features and in some cases dominate close range views as recreational users walk or ride across the moor. This would particularly be the case where PRoW extend through the wind turbine array. However, this would occur in a landscape which is already influenced by wind energy development. At 180m, the proposed wind turbines would be noticeably greater in scale than SMWF, but this might be less perceptible from many parts of the moor. The proposed wind turbines would be a very notable extension of wind energy across the Moor, particularly in areas to the north and east where the influence of SMWF is less. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 has reduced the number of turbines visible from this area.
- 11.351 The proposed substation would be visible in some localised parts of the moor, with the most open close range view from illustrated by **Viewpoint 25**. The substation would introduce electrical infrastructure into views of otherwise expansive moorland. The scale of visual change as a result of the substation would quickly fall away with distance. Overtime, mitigation planting would largely screen views of the substation from most vantage points.
- 11.352 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large across a Wide extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.353 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the introduction of the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of large-scale wind energy infrastructure in views where there would be no prior context in close to mid-range views. The proposed wind turbines would result in a substantial change to the composition of views and would be the most prominent feature. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Cowm Reservoir

11.354 Cowm Reservoir lies 1.8km east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point.

Receptors in this group comprise recreational users at Cowm Reservoir, including walkers, cyclists and those engaging in water sports. There is a local trail that circumnavigates the reservoir. Some outlooks to the north and west of this trail would be enclosed by woodland. The bare earth and screened ZTVs illustrate theoretical visibility would be concentrated to the south-east of this group. There would be no visibility to the north-east of the waterbody and adjacent walking routes. Blade tips at SMWF are perceptible on the skyline. The Project for Assessment would introduce very large wind turbines on the horizon. **Viewpoint 7** is located at the southeastern edge of this reservoir and illustrates views of the proposed wind turbines above the moorland fringe. The turbines would be relatively evenly spaced across a wide horizontal extent when viewed from the south-east and the car park, with the lower parts of the wind turbines screened by landform. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.355 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.356 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), effects would be the same as assessed previously as SMWF has a more limited influence in this location. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Ashworth Moor Reservoir

11.357 Ashworth Moor Reservoir is situated 3.1km south-west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise recreational users at Ashworth Moor Reservoir, including walkers, cyclists and the users of the car park. The car park is the main place of interest and connects to wider trails beyond this group. Operational wind turbines are a characteristic feature on the skyline in panoramic views, including those at SMWF to the north-east behind Knowl Hill. The bare earth and screened ZTVs illustrate that Knowl Hill would provide screening to many but not all of the turbines, across the accessible areas of this group. Areas of higher visibility are not readily accessible to recreational users. A limited number of proposed wind turbines would appear further away than operational turbines at SMWF and intervening landform would screen views of the other turbines.

11.358 **Viewpoint 11** is located 0.9km south-east of this group, where views are more open, and demonstrates how the turbines would appear within the same context and at no greater height above the horizon than currently operational wind turbines. It should be noted that visibility at the Reservoir would consist of only T14 and T15 plus tips, with the remaining wind turbines screened by Knowl Hill. Considering the existing context, the intensification of wind energy would result in a more limited change in views already affected by operational turbines. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from this location.

11.359 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small / Negligible across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.360 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce wind energy development within mid-range views south-east. Two turbines (T14 and T15) and several blade tips would be visible on the skyline set back within Knowl Moor. The introduction of proposed wind turbines would be visible within a wider panorama where wind-energy development is a feature in distant views. The magnitude of change is considered to be Moderate / Slight, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate

11.361 Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate is located 5.2km west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise of recreational users across the network of trails and PRoW within the Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate which is managed by the National Trust. It includes key landmark locations: Peel Tower Monument, Harcles Hill / Bull Hill where there are elevated and panoramic views across the South Pennine Moors and the urban conurbations of Greater Manchester. Access to the western part of the moor can be restricted due to MOD firing ranges.

11.362 The ZTVs illustrate visibility would be concentrated on the elevated area across the central plateau and eastern part of Holcombe Moor. There would be no theoretical visibility along the lower slopes of the western side of the ridge. Views of the proposed wind turbines would be partly restricted at lower elevations, enclosed by vegetation to the south and south-east. **Viewpoints 17** and **18** are located within this group and illustrate the range of open and expansive views from Peel Tower at the southern end and Bull Hill, the highest summit along one of the main routes across the moor. Towards the south of this area (**Viewpoint 17**), the proposed wind turbines would be clearly noticeable on the skyline to the north-east within the existing SMWF cluster. There would be a noticeable degree of difference between the height of the proposed (most noticeable with T14 and T15) and existing wind turbines, but the overall impression of change would be contained to a part of the view already influenced by wind energy development. From Bull Hill (**Viewpoint 18**) and northwards, the proposed wind turbines would appear beyond the existing extent of SMWF cluster and the scale difference of turbines would be clearly noticeable.

11.363 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium (on the highest ground and much less on lower ground) across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.364 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development on the horizon in views east as a new array within Scout Moor and Rooley Moor. The wind turbines would be very noticeable across a small part of a wider panoramic views, noting that the width of the array would be more compact and fewer number of wind turbines present, where existing but more distant wind energy development is a characteristic feature of the view. The magnitude of change is considered to be Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Burrs Country Park

11.365 Burrs Country Park is located 7.4km south-west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise recreational users within Burrs Country Park,

including a PRoW along the River Irwell. Views from this PRoW are mostly enclosed by woodland, but there are more open and expansive views within the park across the landscape to Peel Tower, operational turbines at SMWF and Knowl Hill are noticeable features on the skyline (spanning north-west to north-east). The bare ground ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility, with some exceptions at the north edge of the park, whereas the screened ZTVs illustrate a notable reduction in visibility. There is an illustrative wireline from Burrs Country Park, within **Appendix 11.7**.

- 11.366 Where visible, the Project for Assessment would introduce wind turbines on the distant skyline to the north-east within the same part of the view as SMWF, which already influences views. Some turbines would be noticeable albeit as distant features in views north-east behind SMWF. There would be some perceptible degree of difference in height between the proposed and existing wind turbines, but together they would appear as one more dense cluster of wind energy development on the skyline. There would be no change to the appreciation of views towards Peel Tower Monument.
- 11.367 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.368 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would appear to intensify large-scale wind energy development on part of the skyline in distant views north-east. Most of the proposed wind turbines would be noticeable beyond Knowl Hill, but across a small part of the wider panorama. Impacts on views would be limited by the distance, screening and turbines only occupying part of the overall panorama. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Hollingworth Country Park

- 11.369 Hollingworth Country Park is situated 7.2km south-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group consist of recreational users within Hollingworth Country Park, southwest of Littleborough, including a PRoW around Hollingworth Lake where most of the recreational activity is concentrated. Views are focused within the immediate vicinity of the lake rather than the background. Operational turbines at SWMF are distant but perceptible on the skyline to the north-west. The operational turbines at Crook Hill are closer to this country park and visible to the north.
- 11.370 The bare earth and screened ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility across most of this area. There would be no visibility in some very limited areas to the west of the lake behind Cleggswood Hill. The Project for Assessment would increase the presence of wind energy development on the skyline. The proposed wind turbines appear near the operational SMWF but are larger in height and across a wider horizontal extent of views north-west. However, the wind turbines would not appear more prominent than Crook Hill, where visible. The overall change in views would be somewhat limited by the wide-angle nature, distance and intervening expanse of urban development.
- 11.371 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium across an Intermediate extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the

receptor group would have a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Significant**.

- 11.372 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would appear as a new cluster of large-scale wind energy development on part of the skyline in distant views north-west. Most of the proposed wind turbines would be visible on the skyline across a small part of the wider views. Although noticeable across a small part of the view, the proposed wind turbines would not distract from the main focus of views across the lake. The magnitude of change is considered to be Moderate / Slight, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Not Significant**.

Tandle Hill Country Park

- 11.373 Tandle Hill Country Park is situated 9.4km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Receptors in this group comprise recreational users within Tandle Hill Country Park, including the network of PRowS. Views are mostly focussed within the park itself. The bare earth and screened ZTVs illustrate visibility would be restricted across most of this park. Theoretical visibility would be limited to short sections of PRow to the northern edge of the park and includes the Tandle Hill Viewpoint. There is an illustrative wireline from the Tandle Hill Country Park, within **Appendix 11.7**. From this area and viewpoint, several wind energy developments are visible in distant views north from the more elevated northern edge. The Project for Assessment would introduce additional wind turbines adjacent to the SMWF cluster in distant views north. The proposed wind turbines would appear as a lateral extension and extend the influence of wind energy development across a small part of the background within a wider panorama. There would be no change in views from most other areas of the park.

- 11.374 The sensitivity of this receptor group is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Localised extent of this group. These Long-term effects on the receptor group would have a Moderate / Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

- 11.375 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce a new cluster of large-scale wind energy development on part of the skyline in distant views north. The full array of proposed wind turbines would be visible, set within the upland moor across a small part of the wider panorama. Impacts on views would be limited by the distance and the wider influence of other wind energy development within the panorama across the skyline to the north. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Pennine Bridleway

- 11.376 The Pennine Bridleway follows Rooley Moor Road within the Assessment Boundary. Within the wider study area, it extends from the Peak District to the Yorkshire Dales, as illustrated on **Figure 11.1**. It is noted that there are often optional routes, rather than one single route. One of those route options splits north of Littleborough to either extend west across Rooley Moor, or north towards Todmorden and Hebden Bridge through the Calderdale Special Landscape Area. The two options join up again north of Hurstwood Reservoir, east of Burnley. Value is judged to be National on account of its status as a National Trail. Susceptibility is considered to be High within the study area, where the visual quality of the landscape is an important asset for recreational users. Users on this route are considered to be of High sensitivity.

- 11.377 A large section of the route is set within exposed moorland with vast, open vantage points where operational wind turbines, including SMWF are noticeable. There would be very little visibility near the Peak District or within the Yorkshire Dales. From the optional route between Littleborough and Hurstwood Reservoir via Todmorden, there would be little visibility, as much of the Pennine Bridleway uses much lower ground than the walking route. As a result, there would be limited visual effects on this section of the route. Therefore, the assessment considers the optional route over Rooley Moor.
- 11.378 From the section of the route south-east of Littleborough, there would be intermittent views of the Project for Assessment, including as it passes Hollingworth Lake (where there would be some Moderate adverse and Significant visual effects for users as noted above). Between Littleborough and Brown Wardle Hill above Whitworth, there would be no visibility except for the pass east of Watergrove Reservoir, where there would be partially screened views. From the descent of Brown Wardle Hill into the northern end of Rochdale, there would be open views, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 9**. Beyond this, there would be variable views of the proposed wind turbines as the route approaches Rooley Moor, with some screening by landform as well as vegetation with open views illustrated with **Viewpoint 2** along this section. Once on Rooley Moor Road, the proposed wind turbines would be a prominent feature, much greater in height than existing wind turbines in panoramic views along the section of route through the moors. The proposed wind turbines would be located on both sides of the route, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 1**. Between Cowpe Lowe and Cowpe, there would still be proposed turbines visible, similar to **Viewpoint 5**. The proposed substation would also be visible 1km-2km away along a section of the route above Cowpe. There would be intermittent views from the Irwell Valley through Newchurch and Whitewell Bottom to Windy Bank within the Forest of Rossendale. Beyond Windy Bank, views would be predominantly screened by intervening landform.
- 11.379 Overall, visibility would extend between the M62 crossing near Hollingworth Lake, south of Littleborough, to Windy Bank in the Forest of Rossendale across Rooley Moor, which would be a 40km extent of the route.
- 11.380 The sensitivity of this receptor route is High. The scale of change would be Large across a Wide extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.381 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce a new cluster of large-scale wind energy development and would be prominent features in close range views within the upland moor. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Rossendale Way

- 11.382 The Rossendale Way follows a circular route through the study area, connecting upland moors, with the southern extent of the route across Rooley Moor / Scout Moor and extending east through Whitworth and north to the Forest of Rossendale to Haslingden and then down to Edenfield. A large section of the route and the most valued views would occur within the exposed moorland with vast and open vantage points. The route would extend through both SMWF, as well as Reaps Moss and in proximity to Crook Hill, Todmorden and Hyndburn wind farms.

- 11.383 The ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility from all of the route on high ground and extends through the centre of the Project for Assessment whilst on Rooley Moor Road. **Viewpoints 1** and **9** are located on this route and **Viewpoint 18** is not far from the route and would be representative. From more distant sections of this route to the east, north and west, the proposed wind turbines would notably intensify and extend the influence of wind energy development in views extending from Scout Moor to Rooley Moor.
- 11.384 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large at most and would affect a Wide extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.385 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would be a prominent feature in close range views, but there would be other wind farms which would still have a similarly strong influence on the experience of parts of this route. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Rochdale Way

- 11.386 The Rochdale Way follows a 72km loop around the urban conurbations of Rochdale, Littleborough and Middleton. The northern part of this loop follows a network of tracks and roads at the bottom of Rooley Moor but climbs to the summit of Knowl Moor. Much of the route is set within exposed moorland, with vast, open vantage points where operational wind turbines, including those at SMWF and Crook Hill are very noticeable.
- 11.387 The ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility and **Viewpoints 2, 3, 4** and **9** are located on this route and **Viewpoint 11** is located in close proximity. However, where the route travels through more built up areas and on lower ground, the views of the Project for Assessment would drop away. When visible from a range of different distances, as illustrated by the viewpoints, the proposed wind turbines would be a noticeable addition in views north on the skyline, within the South Pennine Moors already characterised by operational wind turbines, including SMWF. There would be intermittent views to the proposed wind turbines from most of the route and they would often appear greater in scale compared with SMWF.
- 11.388 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large at most and affect an Intermediate extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Substantial magnitude, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.389 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale and prominent turbines in close range views which even without SMWF would not represent the only unit of nearby wind energy development along the route. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Irwell Sculpture Trail

- 11.390 The Irwell Sculpture Trail lies 1.6km north of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. The Irwell Sculpture Trail follows a 52km route from Irwell Spring above Bacup to Manchester. Large sections of the route pass through the settled valleys and settlements of

Bacup, Stacksteads, Rawtenstall, Ramsbottom, and Bury, where operational turbines at SMWF are visible but incidental to the main focus of views.

- 11.391 The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility along most of this route but fewer wind turbines would be theoretically visible along the section to the west of the Project for Assessment. The screened ZTV illustrates visibility would be more intermittent, especially through the more densely settled part of the Irwell Valley between Rawtenstall and Ramsbottom. The Project for Assessment would appear in sequential views along sections of the route through Bacup, Stacksteads, Rawtenstall, and Bury, where the proposed wind turbines would be a noticeable addition on the skyline. **Viewpoint 8** is located in close proximity where you could experience views of the full array. Views of proposed wind turbines from the section near Ramsbottom heading towards Bury would occupy the same part of the view as operational turbines at SMWF, which are already a characteristic feature on the skyline.
- 11.392 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium scale of change across an Intermediate extent of the route (noting a Large / Medium scale across a Localised extent). These Long-term effects would lead to a Substantial / Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.
- 11.393 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of large-scale wind turbines on part of the skyline and experienced along intermittent sections of the route. The magnitude of change is considered to be Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Calderdale Way

- 11.394 Calderdale Way lies 7.6km north-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. The Calderdale Way is an 80km circuit around Calderdale which encircles Todmorden across an area of moorland fringes and upland pasture. The sections of the route within the study area are located in open pasture where there are open vantage points with expansive views west.
- 11.395 The ZTVs illustrate very patchy visibility limited to the sections of the route to the north and east of Todmorden. There would be no visibility from most sections of this route. The Project for Assessment would appear in views over 9.5km south-west, where the proposed wind turbines would be a visible feature in the background within the same cluster and pattern of wind energy development as SMWF. The other operational wind farms at Coal Clough, Todmorden, Reaps Moss and Crook Hill would appear nearer to users of this route and have a greater influence on the visual experience from this route than the Project for Assessment.
- 11.396 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Limited extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Slight / Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.397 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of wind energy development across a small part of the distant skyline experienced along a very limited section of the route. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Oldham Way

11.398 Oldham Way is located 9.2km south-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point.

This is a 64km circuit across varied landscapes, including a section to the north of the settlements of Shaw and Royton at the northern end. The sections of the route within the study area are located in open agricultural fields, where there are long-range views north to the backdrop of the upland plateau of the South Pennine Moors, where operational turbines are characteristic on the skyline.

11.399 The ZTVs illustrate visibility along the northern section of the route, south of the M62 and north of Royton and Shaw. The Project for Assessment would be visible as a new array on the skyline adjacent to the operational SMWF array. At over 9km, the proposed wind turbines would appear as an extension to the influence of wind energy development on a distant part of the skyline within a wider panorama.

11.400 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small across an Intermediate / Localised extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.401 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of wind energy development across a small part of the distant skyline experienced along the northern section of the route. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Witton Weavers Way

11.402 Witton Weavers Way is situated 9.3km west of the proposed turbines at the closest point.

This is a 53km circuit across the Lancashire countryside to the south of Blackburn. Large sections of this route pass through areas of open moorland, with expansive and panoramic views across the landscape, where views of operational wind turbines are a characteristic feature on the skyline.

11.403 The ZTVs illustrate a c. 9km section of visibility between Darwen and Egerton from open and elevated moorland. There would be no visibility along most of the remaining route. Where there are open views, the proposed wind turbines would be visible in distant views west within the same context as SMWF. At over 9km, the Project for Assessment would appear as an intensification of wind energy development across a small part of the background within a much wider panorama where operational wind turbines are a characteristic feature.

11.404 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small / Negligible across a Localised extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Slight / Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.405 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of wind energy development across a small part of the distant skyline experienced along a limited section of the route. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

National Cycle Route (NCR) 6

- 11.406 NCR-6 is located 4km west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Within the study area, NCR-6 follows the existing road network through Bury, Ramsbottom, Haslingden and Accrington. Views from this route are judged to be of National Value due to its status. Given that the route has been located along the valley floor linking a series of settlements, an appreciation of the landscape is a lesser component of this part of the route, users would be of Medium susceptibility. Users on this route are considered to be of High / Medium sensitivity.
- 11.407 The bare earth ZTVs illustrate notable visibility along much of the route from Bury to Holcombe, which is illustrated with **Viewpoint 19** and an illustrative wireline from Tottington, within **Appendix 11.7**, and fewer wind turbines between Holcombe and Haslingden, and even fewer north of Haslingden. The Project for Assessment would be visible sequentially, occupying a small part of the skyline already affected by wind energy development. The proposed wind turbines would be visible adjacent to the existing SMWF as an intensification to the existing cluster of turbines. The proposed wind turbines would be located oblique to the direction of travel within the adjacent upland moor.
- 11.408 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small, across an Intermediate extent of this route between Bury and Haslingden (noting a Medium / Small change over a Limited extent). These Long-term effects would lead to a Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.409 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of a new cluster of wind energy development on a small but noticeable part of the skyline experienced along the route between Bury and Haslingden. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

NCR-92

- 11.410 NCR-92 is 1.6km east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Within the study area, NCR-92 follows a mix of off-road and on-road routes through Rochdale, Whitworth and Shawforth. Views from this route are judged to be of National value due to its status. Given that the route has been located along the valley floor linking a series of settlements, an appreciation of the landscape is a lesser component of this part of the route, users would be of Medium susceptibility. Users on this route are considered to be of High / Medium sensitivity.
- 11.411 The bare earth ZTVs illustrate variable visibility along the route, with more visibility predicted at the Rochdale end with little to no visibility at Shawforth. Localised woodland would enclose views along large sections of the route. Visibility of proposed wind turbines would be restricted further by urban development within the settlements. Where there are more open or glimpsed views west, the proposed wind turbines would be a very noticeable addition on the skyline above the upland moor, where views of existing wind turbines are not an influential feature.
- 11.412 The sensitivity of this route is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Large / Medium, across a Localised extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

11.413 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), effects would be very similar to the scenario with SMWF, given that the existing wind turbines are barely perceptible from this route. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Specific viewpoints

Knowl Hill

11.414 This viewpoint lies 1.5km west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Knowl Hill is a locally popular summit and viewpoint within the study area. Views are judged to be of Regional value on account of it appearing on a regional route. Views of the landscape are an important contribution and susceptibility is judged to be High. Overall sensitivity is considered to be High / Medium.

11.415 As illustrated by **Viewpoint 4**, the Project for Assessment would be a very noticeable behind the operational turbines at SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would occupy the gaps between existing turbines across a similar extent of the view. Outer turbines would slightly increase the horizontal extent of the view affected by turbines. The intensification of wind turbines in the view would be a prominent feature, but not dissimilar to the existing composition and therefore the scale of change is moderated to a large degree. More open views to the south and west would remain unchanged.

11.416 The sensitivity of this viewpoint is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium across an Intermediate extent of this view. These Long-term effects would lead to a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.417 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development in close-range views as part of the wider panorama. The proposed wind turbines would be a very noticeable addition and focal point in the view. The magnitude of change would be Substantial, resulting in a **Major** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Peel Tower

11.418 This viewpoint is situated 6.2km west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Peel Tower Monument is a landmark feature within the local landscape and a popular panoramic viewpoint. Views are judged to be of Regional value on account of the regional popularity and interest. Susceptibility is judged to be High, considering that the appreciation of the landscape is of importance to users. Overall sensitivity is judged to be High / Medium.

11.419 As illustrated by **Viewpoint 17**, the Project for Assessment would be located entirely within the existing context of operational turbines at SMWF. The introduction of the Project for Assessment would appear as a limited intensification of wind turbines within the same context already affected by turbines, with no other change to the wider panorama. The proposed wind turbines would appear greater in scale compared with the existing turbines.

11.420 The sensitivity of this receptor is High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium across a Localised extent of this view. These Long-term effects would lead to a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.421 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development in part of the panorama within the upland moor, where SMWF would not be present in views. The magnitude of change would increase to Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.422 All mitigation for operational stage effects has been embedded within the design as primary or tertiary mitigation and no further secondary mitigation or enhancement has been identified.

Residual effects

11.423 In the absence of secondary mitigation, the residual effect for all receptors is the same as that reported in the pre-mitigation scenario.

Significance

11.424 There would be a **Major** adverse and **Significant** effect on the recreational users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor, Scout Moor, Cowm Reservoir, Pennine Bridleway, Rochdale Way and Rossendale Way with both the Existing Baseline Scenario and Restored Baseline Scenario. For those recreational users on Holcombe Moor / Stubbins Estate, Irwell Sculpture Trail and NCR-92, there would be a **Major / Moderate** adverse and **Significant** effect with the Existing Baseline Scenario and Restored Baseline Scenario. For those visiting Hollingworth Country Park there would be a Moderate adverse and **Significant** effect with the Existing Baseline Scenario and Restored Future Baseline Scenario. For users of the NCR-6, the visual effect with the Existing Baseline Scenario would be **Moderate** adverse and **Not Significant**, but with the Restored Baseline Scenario, the **Moderate** effect would remain but would be considered **Significant**. At Knowl Hill and Peel Tower specific viewpoints, the visual effect with the Existing Baseline Scenario would also be **Moderate** adverse and **Not Significant**, but with the Restored Baseline Scenario, the effect would increase to **Major or Major / Moderate** and would be considered **Significant**. Effects on other recreational receptors would be **Not Significant** with either Existing Baseline Scenario or Restored Baseline Scenario.

Key Transport Routes

M60

11.425 The M60 lies 12.2km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This is the main route that encircles Manchester. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a local transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component and a very high amount and / or speed of traffic. Users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.

11.426 The upland plateau of the South Pennine Moors and the distant view of operational wind turbines are perceptible features on the skyline north. The bare earth ZTVs illustrate widespread visibility. However, intervening urban development would partially limit views towards the Project for Assessment, particularly to the south and east of Manchester. Where there are more open views along the northern section of this route, the proposed wind turbines would be perceptible in distant views as a limited extension to the existing SMWF cluster across a small part of the skyline and incidental to the focus of views. The extent of built form visible along this route would limit the nature of change.

- 11.427 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Small / Negligible, across a Localised extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Slight / Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.428 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in the introduction of a new distant cluster of wind energy development on a small extent of the skyline, oblique to the main focus of views, where other clusters of wind turbines are also present in views, even without SMWF. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Minor / Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

M61

- 11.429 The M61 lies 17.0km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This is the main route between Manchester and Preston. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a regional transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component, and a high volume of traffic and speeds, and users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.
- 11.430 The ZTVs illustrate visibility would be limited to a short section between Junction 2 near Kearsley Moss, and Junction 6, south of the Bolton Stadium. Where visible, the Project for Assessment would be perceptible in distant views on the skyline beyond intervening urban development and oblique to the focus and direction of travel, where views of other operational wind turbines are perceptible.
- 11.431 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Negligible, across a Localised extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.432 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in similar effects. The magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

M62

- 11.433 The M62 lies 7.9km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This is the main east / west motorway route between Simister and Huddersfield. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a regional transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component, with high volumes of traffic and speed, and users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.
- 11.434 The ZTVs illustrate there would be a sustained section of visibility from Simister to Tunshill Golf Course. There would be very limited visibility beyond the golf course. Where visible, the Project for Assessment would be visible in distant views on the skyline beyond intervening urban development and would be incidental to the focus of views. It would be visible along with other wind energy developments within the South Pennine Moors.
- 11.435 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Small, across an Intermediate extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.436 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in similar effects. The magnitude of change is considered to be Slight, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

M66

11.437 The M66 lies 3.5km west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This is the main route between Simister and Ramsbottom / Edenfield. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a regional transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component, a high volume of traffic and speeds, and users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.

11.438 Operational turbines at SMWF are visible within the upland moor to the east. The ZTVs illustrate there would be patchy sections of visibility along this route. Where visible, the Project for Assessment would appear as a noticeable extension adjacent to the cluster of operational wind turbines at SMWF. The proposed wind turbines would appear more distant than existing wind turbines south of Knowl Hill. The proposed wind turbines would appear in sequential views, oblique to the direction of travel, but would be an obvious addition to the influence of wind energy development.

11.439 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Medium over a Localised extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Moderate magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.440 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development in views east where there would be little influence of existing wind energy development. The magnitude of change would be Substantial / Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

A56

11.441 The A56 is 3.1km west of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This is the local route from Enfield, to Shuttleworth, and south to Bury. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a local transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component, fast speeds / high volume of traffic and users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.

11.442 Operational turbines at SMWF are visible within the upland moor to the east, north of Knowl Hill. The ZTVs illustrate variable visibility, with the greatest extent limited to the section at Bury. Further north, visibility would be much reduced, including at the intersection with the M66 and the section between Shuttleworth and Edenfield. Where visible, the proposed wind turbines would extend the presence and influence of wind energy development on the skyline to the east, behind the operational turbines at SMWF. The Project for Assessment would be visible but oblique to the direction of travel within a part of the view already characterised by wind turbines.

11.443 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small over a Localised extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Moderate / Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.444 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development in views east where there would be limited influence of existing wind energy development. The magnitude of change would be Moderate, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

A58

11.445 The A58 is 4.9km south-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. Locally, this is the route from Bury to Halifax through Rochdale and Littleborough. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a local transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component, high volume of traffic and speeds, and users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.

11.446 The bare earth ZTVs illustrate visibility along much of route between Bury and Littleborough but the screening ZTVs indicate that intervening built development would heavily restrict views towards the Project for Assessment. However, there would be a few locations where there would be views, as illustrated with **Viewpoint 20**. Where there are views, the proposed wind turbines would be visible behind or adjacent to the operational SMWF. The extended cluster of wind energy development would result in some limited change to the composition on the skyline but would not distract from the focus of views along the transport corridor.

11.447 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Medium, over a Limited extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Moderate / Slight magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.448 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large scale wind energy development as a new cluster on the skyline on the upland moor. The proposed wind turbines would be visible along short sections of this route interrupted by built form. The magnitude of change is considered to be Moderate / Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

A6

11.449 The A6 is 20.1km south of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. In the study area, this is a key route from Manchester to Stockport, and south to Buxton. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a vehicular transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component, high volume and speed of traffic, and users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.

11.450 The bare earth ZTVs indicate widespread visibility between Manchester and Stockport and between Stockport and High Lane. However, intervening built development would reduce visibility along most of this route, as illustrated in the screening ZTVs. Where there are views of the Project for Assessment, the proposed wind turbines would be perceptible in very distant views and would have very limited influence on visual amenity from this route.

11.451 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Negligible, across a Limited extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.452 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in similar effects. The magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

A62

11.453 The A63 lies 14.2km south-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This is the main route between Oldham and Huddersfield. This route is judged to be of Community value. This is a regional transport link with limited appreciation of the landscape as a component, high volume of traffic and speeds and users are considered to be of Low susceptibility. Overall, users of this road are considered to be of Low sensitivity.

11.454 The ZTVs illustrate there would be very little visibility along this route. Built development in Oldham would further restrict visibility along the southernmost section. There would be a very limited and fleeting section of visibility south of Brunclough Reservoir. The Project for Assessment would result in a barely perceptible addition to the presence of wind energy on distant views north-west.

11.455 The sensitivity of this route is Low. The scale of change would be Negligible, across a Limited extent of this route. These Long-term effects would lead to a Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.456 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would result in similar effects to the scenario with SMWF. The magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.457 All mitigation for operational stage effects has been embedded within the design as primary or tertiary mitigation and no further secondary mitigation or enhancement has been identified.

Residual effects

11.458 In the absence of secondary mitigation, the residual effect for all receptors is the same as that reported in the pre-mitigation scenario.

Significance

11.459 There would be **No Significant** effects from any key routes with the Existing Baseline Scenario, but there would be a Moderate and **Significant** effect on users of the M66 with the Restored Baseline Scenario.

Effects on special qualities of designated landscapes

Peak District National Park

11.460 The Peak District National Park (NP) lies 16.9km south-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. The Peak District NP is shown on **Figure 11.1**. The extent of visibility is illustrated in **Figures 11.5 – 11.8**.

11.461 The ZTVs illustrate a scattered extent of visibility within this designation, with views represented by **Viewpoint 23**. This designated landscape is considered to be of High sensitivity overall with a National value, but the susceptibility of each Special Quality may

vary. The Special Qualities of the Peak District NP are outlined in the Peak District NP Management Plan 2023-2028 and quoted in **Table 11.9** below.

Table 11.9: Effects on the Special Qualities of the Peak District NP

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
<i>‘Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology’</i> <i>‘Views ranging from the Dark Peak’s millstone grit to the South West Peak’s intimate mosaic landscape and the rolling limestone plateau of the White Peak.’</i>	The Project for Assessment would be visible from a very limited area, at the northwestern edge of the Peak District NP. The proposed wind turbines would be visible in very distant views beyond 18km north-west, within a part of the skyline where wind energy development, including at SMWF, is already a characteristic feature of the South Pennine Moors. The intervening settlement of the Manchester conurbation would also limit the contrast with the baseline. The Project for Assessment would result in a limited increase in the perception of wind energy on the distant horizon. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.
<i>‘Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats’</i> <i>‘Dramatic topography, steep slopes and climatic conditions which support a variety of habitats and associated species.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions’</i> <i>‘Tranquil experiences exploring open moors and deep dales with their sense of wild remoteness and dark skies.’</i>	The lights on the nacelles of the proposed wind turbines would be visible in the context of lighting in the wider Greater Manchester urban conurbation. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant. The implications of which are reported separately in the night-time assessment of landscape and visual effects. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.
<i>‘Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry’</i> <i>‘Landscapes that tell the story of human history from Stone Age people all the way through to today’s land managers.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions’</i> <i>‘Settlements and the people that live in them that are integral to the landscape, representing past and</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
<i>present communities, traditions and cultures.'</i>	
<i>'An inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet reflection'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'An unrivalled setting for finding adventures and escaping everyday pressures so people can recharge drained batteries and enjoy healthy and active lifestyles.'</i>	
<i>'Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Many benefits extend beyond the Peak District National Park boundary to positively impact on people who may never visit and may be unaware of its existence.'³²</i>	

- 11.462 The bare earth ZTVs illustrate intermittent coverage over a very limited extent of the elevated areas to the north-west of the NP, at some distance. Most of the Special Qualities relate to internal aspects and experiences within the Peak District NP itself. There would be no change to the physical character of this designation (indirect effects only).
- 11.463 The Special Quality that relates to *'Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology'* mostly relates to views within the NP itself. From parts of the Peak District NP with theoretical visibility, the proposed wind turbines would be part of the distant uplands of the South Pennine Moors looking north-west. From these few locations within the NP, the Project for Assessment would be visible adjacent to operational turbines at SMWF, and a wider skyline already characterised by wind energy development. At over 16km away, the Project for Assessment is unlikely to have an adverse impact on the appreciation of this Special Quality.
- 11.464 The sensitivity of the Peak District National Park is High. The scale of change would be Small / Negligible across a Localised extent of this designation. These Long-term effects would lead to a Slight / Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.465 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development in distant views within the upland moor, where wind energy development is characteristic of the South Pennine Moors. At over 16km, intervening townscapes would limit the influence of the proposed wind turbines on one of the Special Qualities related to views. The magnitude of change would be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Forest of Bowland National Landscape

11.466 The Forest of Bowland National Landscape lies 17.1km north-west of the proposed wind turbines. The Forest of Bowland National Landscape is shown on **Figure 11.1**. The extent of visibility as illustrated on **Figures 11.5 – 11.8**. The ZTVs illustrate a scattered extent of visibility within this designation, with views represented by **Viewpoint 24**. This designated landscape is considered to be of High sensitivity overall with a National value, but the susceptibility of each Special Quality may vary. The key characteristics and Special Qualities of this National Landscape have been set out in the Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2019 – 2024, which states:

‘This natural beauty is derived from the area’s largely unspoilt countryside, combined with a number of special qualities that contribute to the area’s unique character or ‘sense of place’.

11.467 The Special Qualities identified and the potential effect as a result of the Project for Assessment are set out in **Table 11.10** below.

Table 11.10: Effects on the Special Qualities of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
<i>1. An Outstanding Landscape</i>	There would be no physical change to the landscape fabric. The proposed wind turbines would result in some limited change to the perception of wind energy development on the skyline over 17.8km, looking south across the complex interplay of varied landscape types. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.
<i>2. Wild Open Spaces</i>	This Special Quality is more focussed within the National Landscape itself. The proposed wind turbines would occur in the background of open views from the more remote upland areas around Pendle Hill and within the context of existing wind energy development within the South Pennine Moors. There would be a very limited change to the sense of wildness in localised elevated areas where wind energy development is already a characteristic feature on the skyline. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.
<i>3. A Special Place for Wildlife</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>4. A Landscape Rich in Heritage</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>5. A Living Landscape</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>6. Delicious Local Food and Drink</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>7. A Place to Enjoy and Keep Special</i>	This Special Quality mostly relates to the range of recreational pursuits and status as a visitor destination for its character and scenery. Views of the landscape are an important contribution to recreational pursuits. The Project for Assessment would not affect access to the wide range of

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
	recreational pursuits across this landscape. The proposed wind turbines would add to the influence of wind energy development in views and scenic qualities on part of the distant skyline from localised areas of upland moor. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.

- 11.468 The ZTVs illustrate intermittent coverage within the Forest of Bowland National Landscape concentrated to the most upland areas towards the south and the smaller Forest of Pendle unit. Most of the Special Qualities relate to internal aspects and experiences within the Forest of Bowland National Landscape itself. There would be no change to the physical character of this designation (indirect effects only).
- 11.469 With regards to the Special Quality that relates to *An Outstanding Landscape*, the Project for Assessment would result in a limited increase to the perception of wind energy development in distant views adjacent to SMWF amongst others, where operational wind turbines are already a feature.
- 11.470 With regard to the Special Quality that relates to *Wild Open Space*, the Project for Assessment would be located over 17km away and result in some limited and unobtrusive change to the more remote qualities experienced across a very localised part of this designated landscape. The Project for Assessment would be visible only from the most upland and seemingly remote parts of a limited area of this landscape. From some localised areas, the proposed wind turbines would appear within an area already characterised by a wind energy development.
- 11.471 With regard to the Special Quality that relates to *A Place to Enjoy and Keep Special*, the Project for Assessment would result in some distant visibility of proposed wind turbines from recreational pursuits across a localised extent.
- 11.472 At over 17km away, the Project for Assessment is unlikely to result in adverse impact on the appreciation of any of these Special Qualities individually or on this designation as a whole.
- 11.473 The sensitivity of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape is High. The scale of change would be Small / Negligible across a Localised extent of these Special Qualities. This Long-term change would result in a Slight / Negligible magnitude, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.474 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development in distant views within the upland moor, where there would be no immediate context of wind energy development. However, other wind energy developments would be perceptible in distant views south. At over 17km, the Project for Assessment would result in very limited influence on views and is unlikely to result in notable impacts on Special Qualities. The magnitude of change would be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which would be considered to be **Not Significant**.

Calderdale Special Landscape Areas

- 11.475 The Calderdale SLAs are shown in **Figures 11.1** and **11.14**. These SLAs are designated under Policy GN4 of the Calderdale Local Plan 2018/19 – 2032/33 (Adopted March 2023). There are

seven Calderdale SLA units identified within the Local Plan. A review of the ZTVs illustrates visibility within these SLAs would be patchy. Effects in SLAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 are unlikely to be significant due to the very limited theoretical visibility, distance to the Project for Assessment at over 17km and the context of other wind energy development on the skyline. These SLAs are not assessed further. There would be more theoretical visibility within SLAs 1 and 6 and these are considered in detail below. There would be no change to the physical character of this designation (indirect effects only).

SLA 1 – Northern Calderdale Moorlands and Fringes

11.476 SLA1 is located 8.7km north-east of the proposed wind turbines at the closest point. This SLA encompasses a series of moorland plateaux and fringing pastures above the main Calder Valley and forms a distinctive upland backdrop to much of the district. Landscape value is Regional due to the local level designation and cultural associations. Landscape susceptibility would be Medium. More susceptible attributes of the SLA relate to the more extensive views to distant horizons and the historic built character. However, less susceptible attributes would be the large-scale landscapes with a consistent mix of agriculture and moorland landcover, and few scaling features. Considering value and susceptibility, overall sensitivity is assessed as Medium.

Table 11.11: Effects on the Special Qualities of SLA 1 – Northern Calderdale Moorlands and Fringes

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
<i>'Series of elevated moors forming large scale sweeping plateaux, surrounded by a strong pattern of upland pastures enclosed by gritstone walls.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Underlying Millstone Grit geology creating distinctive physical features such as frost weathered tors.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Incised by numerous small-scale stream valleys, cloughs and waterfalls.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Large parts within the South Pennine Moors SAC, SPA and SSSI, recognised for important heathland, bogs and fens supporting rich upland breeding bird populations.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Species-rich hay meadows, rush pastures and wet woodlands providing further wildlife interest and texture.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Strong sense of time depth with many Scheduled Monuments representing human interaction with the landscape over millennia.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Dispersed settlement pattern fringing the moors, with scattered traditional stone</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
<i>farmsteads and occasional historic villages.'</i>	
<i>'A landscape providing artistic and literary inspiration throughout the centuries – famously associated with the Brontës.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Strong perceptions of remoteness, isolation and wildness in contrast to the busy Calder valley.'</i>	The Project for Assessment would result in very limited influence on the remote qualities within a very limited upland area due to the presence of operational turbines closer in views at Crook Hill and the adjacent turbines at SMWF. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.
<i>'Landscape forming a dramatic upland setting to valley settlements.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Expansive views owing to elevation – including south towards the Peak District National Park.'</i>	The Project for Assessment would be visible in views south-west but away from the Peak District NP. The proposed wind turbines would add to the presence of wind energy development on the distant skyline in front of the existing SMWF cluster. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.

- 11.477 The Project for Assessment would be outside the SLA, therefore there would be no change to the physical attributes of the SLA. The main change would be to the scenic and perceptual qualities resulting from visibility of the proposed wind turbines. The bare earth ZTVs indicate a limited band of visibility across the elevated band of upland pasture and moorland fringe north of Lydgate and Todmorden. Where there would be views of the proposed wind turbines, they would be distant and in front of operational turbines at SMWF. Operational turbines at Crooks Hill, Reaps Moss, Todmorden and Coal Clough would also be visible in closer proximity on the skyline. The Project for Assessment would be set back within the upland moors and the influence of the proposed turbines much reduced. There would be no change to the physical character of this designation (indirect effects only).
- 11.478 The sensitivity of SLA 1 – Northern Calderdale Moorlands and Fringes is Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a very Limited extent. This Long-term change would result in a Slight / Negligible magnitude of change, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, and is considered to be **Not Significant**.
- 11.479 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), the Project for Assessment would introduce large-scale wind energy development in distant views within the upland moor over 8km south-west. Impacts would be limited by the presence of closer operational wind energy development, rather than SMWF. The Project for Assessment would result in very limited influence on views and is unlikely to result in notable impacts on Special Qualities. The magnitude of change would be Slight / Negligible, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

SLA 6 – Southern Calderdale Moorland and Fringes

11.480 SLA6 is 4.1km north-east of the proposed turbines at the closest point. This SLA contains a series of open moorland plateaux and fringing upland pastures to the west and south of Todmorden. The landscape forms a distinctive upland backdrop, and a perception of remoteness prevails on the moors. Landscape value is Regional on account of the local level designation and cultural associations. Landscape susceptibility would be Medium. More susceptible attributes of the SLA relate to the extensive views to the Peak District. However, less susceptible attributes would be the large-scale upland landscapes with a mix of agriculture and open moorland landcover. Considering value and susceptibility, overall sensitivity is assessed as Medium.

Table 11.12: Effects on the Special Qualities of SLA 6 – Southern Calderdale Moorland and Fringes SLA

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
<i>‘Series of elevated moors forming large scale sweeping plateaux, surrounded by a strong pattern of upland pastures enclosed by gritstone walls.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Underlying Millstone Grit geology creating distinctive physical features such as frost weathered tors.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Incised by numerous small-scale stream valleys, cloughs and waterfalls.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Large parts within the South Pennine Moors SAC, SPA and SSSI, recognised for important heathland, bogs and fens supporting rich upland breeding bird populations.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Species-rich hay meadows, rush pastures and wet woodlands providing further wildlife interest and texture.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Strong sense of time depth with many Scheduled Monuments representing human interaction with the landscape over millennia.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘Dispersed settlement pattern fringing the moors, with scattered traditional stone farmsteads and occasional historic villages.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>‘A landscape providing artistic and literary inspiration throughout the centuries – famously associated with the Brontës.’</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.

Special Quality	Potential effect and significance
<i>'Strong perceptions of remoteness, isolation and wildness in contrast to the busy Calder and Ryburn valleys.'</i>	The Project for Assessment would result in very limited influence on the remote qualities within a very limited upland area due to the presence of closer operational turbines closer in views at Crook Hill and the adjacent turbines SMWF. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.
<i>'Landscape forming a dramatic upland setting to valley settlements.'</i>	There would be no effect on this Special Quality.
<i>'Expansive views owing to elevation – including south towards the Peak District National Park.'</i>	The Project for Assessment would be visible in views south-west but away from the Peak District NP. The proposed wind turbines would add to the presence of wind energy development on the distant skyline in front of the existing SMWF cluster. Effects on this Special Quality would not be significant.

11.481 The Project for Assessment would be outside the SLA, therefore there would be no change to the physical attributes of the SLA. The main change would be to the scenic and perceptual qualities resulting from visibility of the proposed wind turbines. The ZTVs indicate visibility would be limited to a band of upland moorland 9km east of the proposed wind turbines and east of Walsden. Views from the SLA are illustrated with **Viewpoint 22**, and the nature of the change at this viewpoint is described in **Appendix 11.4**. There would be open but distant views to the array of proposed wind turbines, which would appear in front of SMWF and across a backdrop of other wind energy developments, including Crook Hill and Reaps Moss. The proposed wind turbines would be set within the upland plateau and would not affect the appreciation of the more intricate valleys and fringe landscape at lower elevations. There would be no change to the physical character of this designation (indirect effects only). Effects on the Special Qualities of the SLA would not be significant.

11.482 The sensitivity of SLA 6 – Southern Calderdale Moorland and Fringes is considered to be Medium. The scale of change would be Small at most within a Limited extent of the upland areas, some approximately 9km east. This Long-term change would result in a Slight / Negligible magnitude of change, resulting in a **Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

11.483 In the Restored Baseline Scenario (i.e. without SMWF), impacts would be similar to those described previously. The Project for Assessment would result in a limited increase in the influence of wind energy on the skyline to the west of this landscape between operational wind turbines in closer proximity at Crooks Hill and Reaps Moss. The magnitude of change would be Slight, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.484 All mitigation for operational stage effects has been embedded within the design as primary or tertiary mitigation and no further secondary mitigation or enhancement has been identified.

Residual effects

11.485 In the absence of secondary mitigation, the residual effect for all receptors is the same as that reported in the pre-mitigation scenario.

Significance

11.486 There would be **No Significant** effects on any designated landscapes in the Existing Baseline Scenario or Restored Baseline Scenario.

Night-time Landscape and Visual Effects

11.487 The Project area for Assessment will require visible aviation lighting, as set out within **Chapter 4: Development Specification**. Following an Aviation Study, it has been agreed with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) that a reduced lighting scheme would be acceptable for the Project for Assessment, and this is included within the primary mitigation. This will comprise a single 2,000 candela steady red light mounted on the nacelle of eight of the 12 turbines (T1, T4, T7, T10, T11, T14, T15 and T16). Visible lights on the towers are not required. **Figure 11.11** illustrates the bare earth theoretical visibility of the aviation lighting.

11.488 Unlike many aviation lights which currently exist in England, such as on large TV masts, bridges and some existing wind turbines, the lights proposed would include mitigation. Recently built wind farms over 150m are now starting to include some mitigation, but it can be difficult to confirm precisely what has been installed, so caution should be employed. Primary mitigation includes automatic dimming of the lights (controlled by sensors installed on the turbines) to a nominal intensity of 200 candela during periods of 'good' meteorological visibility in excess of 5km. The switching on and off of lights would be controlled by a timer (assumed 30 minutes before sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise), and not by photocells that respond to particular light levels, thereby not incurring effects in the daytime.

Secondary mitigation and enhancement

11.489 Committed secondary mitigation has also been identified (see **Volume 3: Environmental Management Plan**). This would consist of 'reduced vertical directional intensity', which has the potential to reduce the intensity of the lights for nearby receptors located at elevations below the turbine nacelles. This would reduce the light intensity by up to 95%. This mitigation is reliant on the specific design of the light, which has not been specified at this time. Therefore, this mitigation has not been included in the assessment of residual effects. However, the areas where this could reduce effects even further are illustrated with an area of hatching in the aviation lighting ZTVs shown in **Figure 11.11** and noted in the assessment where this has been described for relevant receptors.

11.490 There is a distinction between light pollution or nuisance and the effect of lighting on the character and amenity of the landscape at night. This is not a technical lighting assessment but focusses on the night-time effects as a result of the introduction of new artificial lighting, with consequent effects. The methodology for assessment of night-time effects is included in **Appendix 11.1**.

- 11.491 The potential for significant effects for aviation lighting would not extend beyond 20km and would normally be much closer. The bare earth aviation lighting ZTV is presented in **Figure 11.11**. Landscape designations are also shown on this ZTV. All viewpoints have included the potential visibility of lighting on the wirelines. Visualisations at dawn / dusk have been prepared for **Viewpoints 2, 6 and 17**. These have been selected as representative of potential visual receptors which are most likely to be affected at night from a range of directions.
- 11.492 In terms of cumulative, there are no existing turbines within 20km of the Project for Assessment which have visible aviation lights fitted. The Winter Hill TV transmission mast is lit with a series of lights and located c. 20km to the west between Bolton and Chorley.
- 11.493 The aviation lights would be visible as points of light, especially where there would be a high degree of contrast at the viewpoint (i.e. the lights were seen against a dark sky / dark landmass or where there would be little or no existing artificial light sources present). As illustrated in **Figure 11.2**, the local area is not dark at night due to widespread lighting within the surrounding conurbations of Greater Manchester and the adjacent settled valleys which have influence on the existing levels of light. However, Rooley Moor and Scout Moor themselves are dark areas and devoid of notable light sources within these moors.
- 11.494 During periods of greater ambient light, (e.g. sunset, twilight, dusk, dawn) there would be a reduced effect as the contrast of the aviation lighting against the background would be less. The lights would be switched on 30 minutes before sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise. Therefore, in Greater Manchester the longest day on 21st June, the lights would be on between 21:11 and 05:09 but there would be no full darkness. By contrast on the shortest day on 21st December, the lights would be on between 15:21 and 08:52 with full darkness of c. 12hrs. This variation means that in summer, the lighting would not be switched on when people are predominantly active and contrast with the background would be reduced. However, in winter, the lighting would be switched on during peak active times.
- 11.495 Due to the location of the lighting on the wind turbines relative to the rotating blades, this can result in a low-frequency blinking effect caused by the screening effect of blades as they travel past the lights. These effects are dependent upon the rotation speed of the blades, direction of wind and the location of the receptor. Where a number of lit turbines are present in the view, such blinking is likely to be at the same frequency but uncoordinated. Most wind turbines face into the wind, and the prevailing wind would be from the west and south-west, therefore, receptors to the west and south-west would perceive this more than other parts of the study area.

Night-time Receptors and their Sensitivity

- 11.496 The impact on visual receptors at night is different from the impact during the daytime. The receptors potentially affected are different, and their sensitivity may also be different.
- 11.497 There are no Dark Sky Discovery Sites within 20km of the Project for Assessment, and it is unlikely to result in any significant impacts beyond 20km. Residents would remain of similar sensitivity. Road users would have a low value to the view, as there is no amenity value from the roads at night in this area, which reduces their sensitivity and therefore, they are not assessed further. In terms of recreational users, users of regional routes, PROW, and visitor attractions are unlikely to be used at night and / or would have a low amenity value and therefore are not considered. Wild camping is not permitted on open-access land or within

National Parks or National Landscapes and therefore not considered. However, the National Trust promote guided night walks within the Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate at Peel Tower and this receptor is assessed in detail in the following section.

11.498 The night-time viewpoint analysis for all viewpoints is located within **Appendix 11.4**.

Landscape Character

11.499 None of the local LCAs have qualities concerned with perceptions of darkness or absence of development. The only LCAs which could have the potential to be significantly affected at night would be the two hosts LCA A1 South Pennine Moors, and the northern section of LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills, which is characterised by darkness and absence of settlement. These are considered further below.

LCA A1: South Pennine Moors

11.500 With regard to the host unit of LCA A1: South Pennine Moors, visibility across the area is illustrated by **Figure 11.11**. Localised landform would limit visibility across most of this LCA. This would extend the man-made influence across the moor into the night, which would reduce the perception of tranquillity and remoteness at night within the moorland plateau. This is illustrated with reference to the wireline for **Viewpoint 1**, the dawn / dusk photomontage for **Viewpoint 2** which is located at the edge of this LCA with views north into the moor. Night-time effects for this LCA would be direct.

11.501 The sensitivity of LCA 01 South Pennine Moors is considered to be Medium / Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide extent of this LCA, leading to a Moderate magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.502 Vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce effects on much of this LCA, as illustrated in the aviation ZTV.

LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills

11.503 With regard to the host unit of LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills, visibility would occur across the core of Rooley Moor as illustrated by the **Figure 11.11**. The introduction of aviation lights would extend the man-made influence into the night within the upland moor and would reduce the perception of tranquillity and remoteness at night within the central and eastern part of this LCA. There would be less impact in the south-western and southern part of this landscape, where existing light in the urban settlement influences the baseline level of lighting.

11.504 The dawn / dusk photomontage for **Viewpoint 2** illustrates the outlook from the southeastern edge of this landscape orientated north into the moor where the degree of change would be greatest. The wirelines of Viewpoints 1, 3, 4, and 11 also indicated how many lights would be visible at night within this LCA. Night-time effects for this LCA would be direct.

11.505 The sensitivity of LCA 24 is considered to be Medium / Low. The scale of change would be Medium / Small within a Wide part of this LCA leading to a Moderate magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.506 Vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce effects on much of this LCA, as illustrated in the aviation ZTV.

Residents and Settlement

11.507 As illustrated in **Figure 11.11**, the accompanying visualisations and the main assessment above, the impacts would be on nearest residents in communities on Catley Head Lane, Whitworth, Bacup, Stacksteads, Newchurch, Rawtenstall and Cowpe. The night-time impact on residents in a private context within 2km have been included in the **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)**. Night-time effects on visual receptors would be direct.

Catley Lane Head

11.508 As illustrated in **Figure 11.11**, the dawn / dusk photomontage **Viewpoint 2**, c. four lights would be a noticeable as a new feature within the upland moors in views north, which is currently devoid of light across this outlook. However, there are other large expanses of light sources across the views south, which would reduce the contrast with the baseline to some extent. The reduced lighting scheme and reduced intensity in good weather would limit the scale of change.

11.509 The sensitivity of this group is considered to be High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide extent of this group, leading to a Moderate magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.510 Vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce visual effects on this receptor group, but still likely to be Significant.

Whitworth

11.511 As illustrated in **Figure 11.11** and the dawn / dusk photomontage and wirelines for **Viewpoint 6**, the Project for Assessment would introduce lighting in the upland moor. Approximately six lights would be noticeable at night as a new feature in views west above the moorland fringe, which is currently devoid of light on the skyline. However, there are other noticeable light sources locally at lower levels within Whitworth and south towards Rochdale, which would reduce the contrast with the baseline to some extent. The reduced lighting scheme and reduced intensity in good weather would limit the scale of change.

11.512 The sensitivity of this group is considered to be High / Medium. The scale of change would be Medium / Small across a Wide extent of this group, leading to a Moderate magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Major / Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

11.513 Vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce visual effects on this receptor group.

Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads and Rawtenstall

11.514 For the settlements within the Irwell Valley to the north, up to 6 lights would be visible. The number of visible lights vary and towards the northern extent of Bacup, up to seven lights would be visible as illustrated on the wirelines for **Viewpoints 8, 10, 12, and 15**. Existing light

sources are extensive across this urban band of settlements within the valleys. The introduction of aviation lighting on the skyline would be visible but would have limited influence. The reduced lighting scheme and reduced intensity in good weather would further limit the scale of change.

- 11.515 The sensitivity of this group is considered to be High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Wide extent of this group, leading to a Moderate / Slight magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

- 11.516 Vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce visual effects on this receptor group.

Cowpe

- 11.517 As illustrated in **Figure 11.11** and the wirelines for **Viewpoint 5**, three lights (at T11, T14 and T15) would be visible as a new feature close to the skyline in views south above the steep moorland fringe which is currently mostly devoid of light on the skyline. However, there are other scattered light sources locally within Cowpe and to the north, which would reduce the contrast with the baseline to some extent. The reduced lighting scheme and reduced intensity in good weather would limit the scale of change. So, whilst the change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible in the day, one additional light would be visible.

- 11.518 The sensitivity of this group is considered to be High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small across a Wide extent of this group, leading to a Moderate / Slight magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

- 11.519 Vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce visual effects on this receptor group.

Other settlements

- 11.520 From other settlements to the south and west, including Ramsbottom, Greenmount, Norden and Wolstenholme, Heywood, and the northern edge of Rochdale, up to eight lights could be visible, depending on the location. This is illustrated in wirelines for **Viewpoints 14, 19 and 20**. This would be a perceptible new feature within the moors at night, in a part of the landscape which is currently devoid of light. However, most of these areas are characterised by numerous scattered light sources throughout the urban conurbations, and therefore, the contrast with the baseline would not be so marked. The reduced lighting scheme and reduced intensity in good weather would further limit the scale of change.

- 11.521 The sensitivity of this group is considered to be High / Medium. The scale of change would be Small / Negligible across a Wide extent of this group, leading to a Slight magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Recreational users of the Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate

- 11.522 The sensitivity of recreational users at night within the Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate is High / Medium. There are monthly guided night walks for visitors to Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate. In reviewing the Aviation Lighting ZTV, **Figure 11.11**, the area with the most

notable visibility is concentrated around the summit of Peel Tower – which is the key landmark meeting place for guided night-time walks – where all eight lights would be visible as illustrated by the dusk photomontage for **Viewpoint 17**. However, the number of lights visible would reduce along any route from Peel Tower. Where visibility of the aviation lights would occur, it would be in combination with the lighting within the Irwell Valley and the wider expanse of lighting within the conurbations of Greater Manchester, including tall buildings within the City Centre.

- 11.523 The sensitivity of this group is considered to be High / Medium. Given the existing context, the reduced lighting scheme and reduced intensity in good weather, for these receptors, the scale of change would be Small across an Intermediate extent, leading to a Moderate / Slight magnitude of change. This long-term change would result in a **Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant**.

Designated Landscapes

Peak District National Park

- 11.524 One of the Special Qualities of the Peak District NP relates to the ‘Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions...Tranquil experiences exploring open moors and deep dales with their sense of wild remoteness and dark skies.’³² This indicates that the Peak District NP would be sensitive to the introduction of lighting within the more remote summits when seen from the northwestern part of the Peak District. All of the lights on the nacelles would be theoretically visible. Given the distance of over 16km and the other lighting within the intervening townscape, there would be no notable changes to the perception of tranquillity or dark skies at night-time environment within the NP. The reduced lighting scheme and reduced intensity in good visibility would reduce the scale of change.
- 11.525 The sensitivity of the Peak District National Park is High. The scale of change would be a Small / Negligible on that Special Quality, within a very Localised extent, leading to a Slight / Negligible magnitude of change. This Long-term change would result in a **Moderate / Minor** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Not Significant**.

Secondary mitigation or enhancement

- 11.526 Vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce visual effects.

Significance

- 11.527 The Project for Assessment will require visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of eight of the 12 wind turbines, having agreed a reduced lighting scheme with the CAA. A range of additional embedded mitigation measures have also been committed to in relation to minimising the night-time impacts, including a reduced intensity light (from 2000 candela to 200 candela) in good visibility on the nacelle and a timer to ensure the impacts only occur at night.
- 11.528 Given the extent of primary and tertiary mitigation incorporated into the Project for Assessment, the residual **Significant** effects identified at night would be limited to residents in the communities of Catley Lane Head and Whitworth where Major / Moderate adverse effects would occur at night. There would also be Moderate and **Significant** effects at Whitworth, Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads, Rawtenstall, Cowpe and at Holcombe Moor / Stubbins Estate / Peel Tower. Other landscape and visual effects at night would occur but would be **Not Significant**.

11.529 The secondary mitigation of reduced vertical directional intensity mitigation would reduce visual effects for some of these receptors even further, but this mitigation has not been included in the assessment of residual effects.

Cumulative effects

11.530 The EIA wide Cumulative Assessment for the Project for Assessment is presented in **Chapter 16: Assessment of Cumulative Effects**. This part of the landscape and visual assessment presents the cumulative landscape and visual assessment. It is based on the 'Existing Baseline Scenario'.

11.531 In line with GLVIA3 and NatureScot's cumulative guidance, the assessment of cumulative effects should focus on whether there are any likely significant cumulative effects which are reasonably foreseeable and which are likely to influence the decision-making of the Proposed Development, rather than an assessment of every potential cumulative effect. As recommended by the best practice cumulative guidance, this assessment focusses on the additional cumulative change which would be brought about by the Project for Assessment. However, where relevant and there is a noted difference, totality of the combined effect with other cumulative developments is also considered.

11.532 **Section 11.34** sets out the cumulative scenarios, and the rationale for the focus of this assessment is limited to Scenario 3 (The Project for Assessment with operational and consented development and sites in planning). Operational schemes are considered in the main operational assessment and shown on the wirelines. There are no consented schemes of note that would influence the cumulative assessment, but these are included in the assessment below. There is only one cumulative scheme 'in planning' which would be Calderdale Wind Farm (see Table 16.1) (noting that Calderdale is only at PEIR stage, rather than with a submitted planning application and is subject to change) which is considered as part of the assessment below.

11.533 As illustrated on **Figure 11.16**, Calderdale is located approximately 15km northeast of the Project for Assessment and there are very few areas of intervisibility that coincide with landscape and visual receptors. The separation distance between the Project for Assessment and the limited intervisibility would limit the likelihood of significant cumulative effects to a limited number of landscape and visual receptors considered below.

11.534 The viewpoint analysis contained in **Appendix 11.4** includes a description of the scale of change from the limited number of viewpoints (**Viewpoints 1, 17, 18, 22 and 23**), where Calderdale is theoretically visible, as shown on the wirelines. Any receptors which resulted in a Minor or less level of effect in Scenario 1 are not considered further in the cumulative assessment.

Scenario 3 Cumulative Changes in landscape character and features

11.535 Landscape receptors with the potential to result in significant cumulative landscape effects would be limited to LCA A1: South Pennine Moors, LCA C1 Rossendale Hills, LCA B2: West Pennine Moors and LCA 22: Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat. Other LCAs considered in the main assessment would be unlikely to result in significant cumulative effects due to very limited intervisibility with the consented schemes and the separation distance and where the additional characterising effect of Project for Assessment is so limited that it would not lead to any notable increases in the level of effect.

LCA A1: South Pennine Moors

- 11.536 This LCA is of Medium/Low sensitivity, it forms one of this host LCAs and consists of several units within the study area. Calderdale Wind Farm is also located within another unit of LCA A1: South Pennine Moors.
- 11.537 Calderdale Wind Farm would be visible from **Viewpoints 1** and **25** on the skyline from in very distant views beyond other operational wind energy developments. Considering the prominence of the Project for Assessment, the additional change would result in limited additional change to the character of the host unit of LCA A1.
- 11.538 **Viewpoints 22** and **23** are located within other units of this LCA, where the full Calderdale array would be clearly visible on the skyline as a separate group in successive views north and within a wider context of more distant operational wind energy development. Assuming the prior presence of Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would increase the presence of wind energy development into an area already affected. The addition of the Project for Assessment into this cumulative scenario would result in an increased presence of large scale turbines within two separate units of LCA A1, but the additional cumulative effect would be limited by the separation distance.
- 11.539 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in an effect of **Major/Moderate** adverse, which is considered to be **Significant**. Cumulative effects on LCA A1 would be no greater than those reported in Scenario 1 (main operational assessment).
- 11.540 The potential combined cumulative effect of the consented schemes, Calderdale and the Project for Assessment would be similar, although there is the potential for increased localised effects in the Calderdale unit, but there would still be parts of this LCA which would remain free of turbines.

LCA C1: Rossendale Hills

- 11.541 This undulating high plateau LCA is of Medium sensitivity with expansive views which including several operational wind energy developments across the skyline. As shown on **Figure 11.6** intervisibility with Calderdale would be concentrated in the three most elevated plateaus that separate lower-level settlements of Bacup and Rawtenstall.
- 11.542 The Calderdale array would be visible in distant views as a separate cluster north east of other operational turbines in a separate landscape. The addition of the Project for Assessment would establish an increased influence of wind energy within an area already influenced by wind energy development.
- 11.543 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in a **Major/Moderate** adverse effect, which is considered to be **Significant** (no greater than reported in Scenario 1).
- 11.544 The potential combined cumulative effects of consented schemes, Calderdale and the Project for Assessment on LCA C1 could be greater due to the influence of Calderdale as a new notable cluster of wind energy to the northeast behind Coal Clough and Todmorden turbines, but the combined effect might still remain **Major/Moderate** and **Significant**.

LCA B2: West Pennine Moors and LCA 22: Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat

- 11.545 These LCAs are of Medium sensitivity and consist of two units. As illustrated on **Figure 11.16**, intervisibility with Calderdale is limited to the unit of this LCA at Holcombe Moor.
- 11.546 **Viewpoint 17** illustrates visibility of Calderdale would be limited to four distant blade tips, and therefore very limited cumulative change. **Viewpoint 18**, located at one of the highest points of this LCA illustrate that the Calderdale array would be visible in distant views as a separate cluster north-east, behind other operational turbines.
- 11.547 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in an effect of **Moderate** adverse and **Not Significant** (no greater than reported in Scenario 1).
- 11.548 The potential combined cumulative effect of consented schemes, Calderdale and the Project for Assessment would be increased but the effect would remain at **Moderate** adverse and **Not Significant**.

Scenario 3 Cumulative Changes in views / visual amenity

- 11.549 This assessment focuses on the cumulative effect of the Project for Assessment on groups of visual receptors where cumulative interactions with Calderdale are could potentially be Significant. The visual receptor groups focus on areas where there could be intervisibility of the Project for Assessment and Calderdale. As illustrated in the cumulative ZTV (**Figure 11.16**), this rules out settlements within the assessment.
- 11.550 Other receptor groups may include those where there would be limited intervisibility and mainly sequential views of Calderdale and the Project for Assessment, such as the key transport routes in the core of the study area. However, given the nature of cumulative interactions these effects are unlikely to be significant given the lower sensitivity, and separation distance between these receptors and Calderdale and the therefore the additional effects would be no greater than the assessments in Scenario 1 and not considered in further detail. National Cycle Route 6 is a more sensitive receptor but follows the M66 and views of Calderdale would be very limited. National Cycle Route 92 follows mainly the valley through Whitworth with limited views of Calderdale.

Users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor

- 11.551 This receptor group is located within the Assessment Boundary and is of High/Medium sensitivity. Calderdale would appear as a separate and distant array some 15km northeast and theoretically visible from more elevated locations where there are long range views across the Pennine Moors in combination with other operational turbines on the skyline. Calderdale would be visible within the same horizontal context of closer operational schemes at Todmorden and Reaps Moss, which contribute to an enlarged grouping of turbines on the distant skyline.
- 11.552 **Viewpoint 1** illustrates the Project for Assessment would be a prominent new feature in close to medium range views across much of this receptor group and the influence of more distant operational, consented wind energy schemes and Calderdale would be somewhat limited.

11.553 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in an effect of **Major adverse** and **Significant** (same as for Scenario 1).

Users of Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate

11.554 This receptor group is of High/Medium sensitivity and is principally concerned with elevated areas including at Peel Tower across the central plateau of Holcombe Moor where there would be some intervisibility as shown on **Figure 11.16**.

11.555 The Project for Assessment would be seen with operational schemes, and Calderdale. **Viewpoint 17** is located within this group and illustrates the more limited cumulative interaction with Calderdale Wind Farm. From **Viewpoint 18** the Project for Assessment would be seen within the existing context of operational turbines and the Calderdale array would appear distant group on the skyline behind Coal Clough and other operational wind turbines to the northeast.

11.556 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in an additional cumulative effect of **Major/Moderate** adverse effect which is considered to be **Significant** (same as reported for Scenario 1).

User of the Pennine Bridleway

11.557 Users of the Pennine Bridleway are considered of High sensitivity. **Viewpoints 1, 2, 5, and 9** illustrate or are proxies for the potential cumulative effects on users of the Pennine Bridleway, where intervisibility would only occur at **Viewpoint 1**. This route extends through the centre of both proposed arrays, 15km apart. As a result, there would be a likely significant effect locally to each of the two proposals. However, with reference to the viewpoints and the cumulative ZTV in **Figure 11.16**, these significant effects would mainly occur as a result of the projects individually and sequentially, rather than simultaneously from any sections. These effects would occur in the wider context of landscapes which are already characterised by wind energy on the moors.

11.558 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in a **Major** adverse effect which is considered to be **Significant** (same as reported for Scenario 1) on a localised section of the Pennine Way near the Project for Assessment.

11.559 The potential combined cumulative effect of consented schemes, Calderdale and the Project for Assessment would result in two sequential Significant effects local to each proposed site on parts of the Pennine Way.

User of the Rossendale and Rochdale Ways

11.560 Users of the *Rossendale and Rochdale Ways* are considered of High/Medium sensitivity. These routes extend up and around the valleys surrounding Scout Moor and the effects would be similar as noted above. There would be limited impacts within the sections of these routes through the valleys, but the potential for more combined views from high ground only. This is illustrated in or as proxies at **Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 18**, where cumulative visibility with Calderdale would only occur at **Viewpoints 1 and 18**.

11.561 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in an effect of **Major** adverse effect which is considered to be **Significant** (same as reported for Scenario 1) in a localised section of the Pennine Way.

11.562 The potential combined cumulative effect of consented schemes, Calderdale and the Project for Assessment would be similar, as Calderdale would be distant in any views.

Cumulative Changes in views / visual amenity from designated landscapes

11.563 As shown on **Figure 11.16**, cumulative intervisibility of the Project for Assessment, and Calderdale with designated landscapes would be limited to the Peak District National Park (High sensitivity), The Forest of Bowland National Landscape (High sensitivity). Solus effects as a result of Project for Assessment on these two national designations are judged to be Moderate/Minor and **Not Significant**. Considering the separation and distance between Calderdale Windfarm, the Project for Assessment and the Peak District National Park, cumulative interactions would not result in additional Significant cumulative effects. The SLA 6- Southern Calderdale Moorland (Medium sensitivity) and Fringes was judged to be **Minor**. Whilst there may be some impacts as a result of Calderdale, the additional effects of the Project for Assessment would be limited and would not result in Significant cumulative effects.

Forest of Bowland National Landscape

11.564 With regard to the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, cumulative interactions with Calderdale would be limited by distance and very limited intervisibility. As illustrated with **Viewpoint 24**, Calderdale Wind Farm would be visible as a new distant array of wind energy development on the distant skyline from a small area of this designated landscape. The Project for Assessment would be visible within the context of existing more distant turbines.

11.565 Assuming the prior presence of operational schemes, consented schemes and Calderdale, the addition of the Project for Assessment would result in an effect of **Moderate/ Minor** adverse and **Not Significant** (same as reported in Scenario 1).

11.566 The potential combined cumulative effects of consented schemes, Calderdale and the Project for Assessment on the Special Qualities Forest of Bowland National Landscape of the could be greater than the additional change noted above, however, this change would occur where there is already an influence of renewable energy within the Pennine Moors and the combined effect is unlikely to be Significant.

Limitation and Assumptions

11.567 To ensure transparency within the EIA process, the following limitations and assumptions have been identified.

- The bulk of photography and assessment was carried out whilst the trees were not in full leaf, so professional experience has been used for assessments throughout the year;
- Whilst feedback from many consultees had been received, not all consultees responded prior to the assessment being undertaken, including that of LUC on behalf of the Council and the official Scoping Opinion, and therefore assumptions have been made for the 2025 ES. For the FEI ES, consultation responses were received from LUC on behalf of the Council regarding the ES and were responded to, as noted within **Appendix 2.4**, but there no consultation response was received from Natural England regarding the 2025 ES;
- In some cases, the photography in the visualisations was hazy, but the assessments have been undertaken on the basis of very clear weather, rather than the conditions represented in the photography in order to consider the 'worst case scenario'; and
- One of the turbines at Sheepfold was undergoing a turbine hub and blade replacement during the site visits and photography, but the assessment assumes that the turbine would be present in full.

Summary

11.568 The Project for Assessment is located within the South Pennine Moors, which is already characterised by operational turbines, including the operational Scout Moor Wind Farm (SMWF). The Project for Assessment would respect the main features of the Assessment Boundary and local area and has been designed to be set back into the moorland plateau to limit impact on the surrounding Settled Valleys.

11.569 There would be some construction stage effects for the two hosts LCA A1: South Pennine Moors and LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills of Moderate adverse and **Significant**. There would also be a Major adverse and **Significant** effect during construction on the recreational user within Rooley Moor / Knowl Moor and Scout Moor. Visual effects on the nearest communities would be Moderate or less and considered **Not Significant**. These construction impacts are considered to be Temporary and this has been accounted for within the assessment of effects.

11.570 In terms of the operational stage, the assessment considered both the current baseline and the restored future baseline of SMWF having been decommissioned and restored. The operational stage effects are considered to be Long Term and Reversible in terms of both landscape and visual effects.

11.571 There would be Major / Moderate and **Significant** effects on the two host landscapes, LCA A1: South Pennine Moors and LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills, as well as adjacent landscapes of LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe, LCA F1: Irwell Settled Valley (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup), and LCA C1: Rossendale Hills Enclosed Uplands.

There would be a Moderate effect on LCA B2: West Pennine Moors and LCA 22: Holcombe and Higher Summerseat Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes, which would be **Not Significant** with the current baseline but **Significant** within Holcombe Moor units of both with the future baseline of SMWF having been decommissioned and restored. The significant effects with the current baseline would be contained within approximately 6 – 7km, and significant effects with the future baseline without SMWF would extend these out to approximately 8km to the north and west. The effect on other LCAs would be Moderate or less and **Not Significant**.

- 11.572 There would be a Major adverse and **Significant** effect on the communities of Whitworth, scattered residents around Catley Lane Head, Bacup, Newchurch, Stackstead and Cowpe with both the current and restored future baselines. For those in the communities of Norden Wolstenholme, Rochdale, Rawtenstall, Haslingden, and Heywood / Hooley Bridge, there would be a Moderate adverse with the current baseline and Major / Moderate adverse with the future baseline with both the effect in scenarios being considered **Significant**. For those communities at Haslingden and Ramsbottom the effect with the current baseline would be Moderate adverse and **Not Significant**, but with the restored future baseline, the Moderate effect would remain but would be considered **Significant**. At Edenfield the effect would be Moderate adverse and **Not Significant** in both scenarios. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible from these visual receptors but the overall lateral extent and scale of the turbines remain similar.
- 11.573 There would be a Major adverse and **Significant** effect on the recreational users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor, Scout Moor, Cowm Reservoir, Pennine Bridleway, Rochdale Way and Rossendale Way with both the current and restored future baselines. For those recreational users on Holcombe Moor / Stubbins Estate, Irwell Sculpture Trail and NCR-92, there would be a Major / Moderate adverse and **Significant** effect with the both the current and future baselines. For those visiting Hollingworth Country Park there would be a Moderate adverse and **Significant** effect with the both the current and restored future baselines. For users of the NCR 6, the visual effect with the current baseline would be Moderate adverse and **Not Significant**, but with the restored future baseline, the Moderate effect would remain but would be considered **Significant**. At Knowl Hill and Peel Tower specific viewpoints, the visual effect with the current baseline would also be Moderate adverse and **Not Significant**, but with the future baseline, the effect would increase to Major or Major / Moderate and would be considered **Significant**. Effects on other recreational receptors would be **Not Significant** with either the current or future baselines. The change to the Project for Assessment design since the 2025 ES has reduced the number of turbines visible when seen from these routes, but the overall length of the routes affected would remain similar.
- 11.574 There would be **No Significant** effects from any key transport routes with the current baseline, but there would be a Moderate and **Significant** effect on users of the M66 with the future baseline without SMWF.
- 11.575 There would be **No Significant** effects on any designated landscapes.
- 11.576 The Project for Assessment will require visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of eight of the 12 turbines, having agreed a reduced lighting scheme with the CAA. A range of additional embedded mitigation measures have also been committed to in relation to minimising the night-time impacts, including a reduced intensity light (from 2000 candela to 200 candela) in good visibility on the nacelle and a timer to ensure the impacts only occur at night. Given the

extent of mitigation incorporated into the Project for Assessment, **Significant** impacts identified at night would be limited to residents in the communities of Catley Lane Head and Whitworth where Major / Moderate adverse effects would occur at night. There would also be Moderate and **Significant** effects at Whitworth, Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads, Rawtenstall, Cowpe and at Holcombe Moor / Stubbins Estate / Peel Tower. Other landscape and visual effects at night would occur but would not be significant. The secondary mitigation of reduced vertical directional intensity would reduce these effects further but still likely to be **Significant** in places.

- 11.577 In terms of the cumulative effects, the main (solus) assessment includes the effect with the operational baseline and not the restored future baseline. The only consented scheme, Pimbo Road is located over 35km south-west and cumulative interactions would not be significant. The only other proposed wind energy development is Calderdale Wind Farm 15km away. Cumulative interactions with Calderdale Wind Farm would only affect a limited number of landscape and visual receptors located on the highest ground with potential cumulative intervisibility. The cumulative assessment with Calderdale Wind Farm found that the additional change brought about by the addition of the Project for Assessment to a baseline of the operational, consented and Calderdale schemes would be no greater in the level of effect, than was assessed in the main assessment (for the Project for Assessment in isolation) for those few receptors located on high ground. Total combined cumulative effects were also considered where relevant, and there were only a few locations where there could be the potential for any notable increases in effect including on LCA A1: South Pennine Moors (the host for both sites), LCA C1: Rossendale Hills (located between the two), and for users of the Pennine Bridleway (route traverses both sites).
- 11.578 A **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Appendix 11.6)** was undertaken for those residents within a 2km study area from the proposed wind turbines. This assessment is not principally concerned with identifying 'significant' visual effects but with regard to the visual effect in a private context on 'residential amenity' or 'living conditions' of individual residents. Given the number of residents located within 2km, the assessment considered the effect in detail on representative residential properties, which included the closest properties where the highest magnitude of visual effect would be most likely to occur. It is assessed that there would be many properties within 2km of the Project for Assessment where one or more turbines would be highly prominent from the dwelling or its curtilage. It is considered that these properties would typically experience a significant adverse effect on visual amenity.
- 11.579 The changes arising from a project may engender positive or negative responses depending on individual perceptions regarding the merits of renewable energy. However, the assessment has taken a precautionary approach in considering that effects on the landscape and on views, which would result from the construction and operation of the Project for Assessment, would be adverse; however, many people would not consider the effects to be adverse.
- 11.580 **Table 11.13** provides a summary of the effects, receptors, residual effects and conclusions of significance considered within the Chapter. The table only provides a summary of the residual effects identified within the assessment when all primary and tertiary mitigation measures have been taken into account, as set out in detail within the Chapter and summarised in the Environmental Management Plan included in **Volume 3: Environmental Management Plan**.

11.581 This is based on the 'Existing Baseline Scenario' with any changes resulting from the 'Restored Baseline Scenario' noted.

Table 11.13: Summary of residual effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Residual effect	Is the residual effect Significant?
Construction stage			
<i>Changes in landscape character and features</i>			
LCA A1: South Pennine Moors	Medium / Low	Moderate adverse	Yes
LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills	Medium / Low	Moderate adverse	Yes
LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe	Medium / Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup)	High / Medium	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
LCA C1: Rossendale Hills Enclosed Uplands	Medium / Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
<i>Changes in views / visual amenity</i>			
Settlement of Whitworth	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	No
Settlement of Edenfield and Ramsbottom	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	No
Settlement of Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads and Rawtenstall	High / Medium	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
Recreational users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Recreational users of Lobden Golf Course, Pennine Bridleway Rossendale Way- east of Whitworth	High / Medium	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
Operational stage			
<i>Changes in landscape character and features</i>			

Receptor	Sensitivity	Residual effect	Is the residual effect Significant?
LCA A1: South Pennine Moors	Medium / Low	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills	Medium / Low	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
LCA D4: Scout Moor and Shore Moor Fringe	Medium / Low	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
LCA F1: Irwell (Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Bacup)	High / Medium	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
LCA C1: Rossendale Hills	Medium / Low	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
LCA B2: West Pennine Moors	Medium	Moderate adverse	No with Existing Baseline Scenario, but Yes within Holcombe Moor unit with Restored Baseline Scenario
LCA D5: Oswaldtwistle & Darwen Moor Fringe	Medium	Moderate adverse	No
LCA G6: River Roch & Tributaries	High / Medium	Minor adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate / Minor adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No in either scenario
LCA I3: Haslingden Grane	Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
LCA 20: Affetside and Ainsworth	Low	Minor adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate / Minor adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No in either scenario
LCA 22: Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat	Medium	Moderate adverse	No with Existing Baseline Scenario, but Yes within Holcombe Moor unit with Restored Baseline Scenario

Receptor	Sensitivity	Residual effect	Is the residual effect Significant?
LCA 23: River Irwell (north Bury) and Kirklees	Medium	Minor adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate / Minor adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No in either scenario
LCA 25: River Roch	Medium	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
LCA 26: Prettywood, Pilsworth and Unsworth Moss	Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
LCA 27: Simster, Slattocks and Healds Green	Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
LCA 28: Rochdale and Oldham South Pennine Foothills Pennine Foothills	Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
LCA 29: Rough Hill to Brun Moor	Medium / Low	Moderate adverse	No
<i>Changes in views / visual amenity</i>			
Settlements of Norden and Wolstenholme	High / Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	Yes in both scenarios
Settlement of Rochdale	High / Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No in Existing Baseline and Yes in Restored Baseline Scenario
Settlement of Catley Lane Head	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Settlement of Whitworth	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Settlement of Bacup	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Settlement of Newchurch and Stacksteads	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Settlement of Cowpe	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Settlement of Rawtenstall	High / Medium	Major/Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate adverse with	Yes in both scenarios

Receptor	Sensitivity	Residual effect	Is the residual effect Significant?
		Restored Baseline Scenario	
Settlement of Haslingden	High / Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate Adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
Settlement of Edenfield	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
Settlement of Ramsbottom	High / Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
Settlements of Greenmount and Summerseat	High / Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
Settlements of Bury and Tottington	High / Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
Settlements of Hooley Bridge and Heywood	High / Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	Yes in both scenarios
Users of Rooley Moor, Knowl Moor and Scout Moor	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Users of Cowm Reservoir	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Users of Ashworth Moor Reservoir	High / Medium	Moderate / Minor adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate adverse with	No in both scenarios

Receptor	Sensitivity	Residual effect	Is the residual effect Significant?
Restored Baseline Scenario			
Users of Holcombe Moor and Stubbins Estate	High / Medium	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
Users of Burrs Country Park	High / Medium	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
Users of Hollingworth Country Park	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes with Existing Baseline Scenario and No with Restored Baseline Scenario
Users of Tandle Hill Country Park	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	No
Users of Pennine Bridleway	High	Major adverse	Yes
Users of Rossendale Way	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Users of Rochdale Way	High / Medium	Major adverse	Yes
Users of Irwell Sculpture Trail	High / Medium	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
Users of Calderdale Way	High / Medium	Minor adverse	No
Users of Oldham Way	High / Medium	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
Users of Witton Weavers Way	High / Medium	Minor adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate / Minor adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No in both scenarios
Users of NCR-6	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
Users of NCR-92	High / Medium	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
Viewpoint at Knowl Hill	Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario

Receptor	Sensitivity	Residual effect	Is the residual effect Significant?
Viewpoint at Peel Tower	High/Medium	Moderate adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Major / Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
M60	Low	Negligible adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Minor / Negligible adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No in both scenarios
M61	Low	Negligible adverse	No
M62	Low	Minor adverse	No
M66	Low	Moderate / Minor adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No with Existing Baseline Scenario and Yes with Restored Baseline Scenario
A56	Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
A58	Low	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
A6	Low	Negligible adverse	No
A62	Low	Negligible adverse	No
<i>Effects on special qualities of designated landscapes</i>			
Peak District National Park	High	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
Forest of Bowland National Landscape	High	Moderate / Minor adverse	No
SLA 1 – Northern Calderdale Moorlands and Fringes	Medium	Minor adverse	No
SLA 6 – Southern Calderdale Moorland and Fringe	Medium	Minor adverse with Existing Baseline Scenario and Moderate / Minor adverse with Restored Baseline Scenario	No in both scenarios
<i>Night-time landscape and visual effects</i>			

Receptor	Sensitivity	Residual effect	Is the residual effect Significant?
LCA A1: South Pennine Moors	Medium / Low	Moderate adverse	No
LCA 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills	Medium / Low	Moderate adverse	No
Residents and settlement - Catley Lane Head	High / Medium	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
Residents and settlement - Whitworth	High / Medium	Major / Moderate adverse	Yes
Residents and settlement - Bacup, Newchurch, Stacksteads, Rawtenstall	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
Residents and settlement - Cowpe	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
Recreational users - Holcombe Moor / Stubbins Estate and Peel Tower	High / Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
Designated landscapes – Peak District National Park	High	Moderate / Minor adverse	No

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