

Table L1: Landscape Impact Table

Landscape Character Area or Type	Baseline Description	Description of Change	Magnitude of impact (all periods)	Sensitivity	Nature and Type of Impacts (all periods)	Significance (all periods)	Cumulative
National Character Area (NCA)							
Area 33: Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill	The key elements of the Bowland Fringe & Pendle Hill Countryside Character Area descriptions pertaining to the proposed wind turbine at Hills Farm are:- This is a transitional landscape which wraps around the upland core of the Bowland Fells. Elevation ranges within this NCA from 9m above sea level to 577m. This is an undulating and rolling landscape with local variation created by numerous river valleys and by the moorland outliers including Longridge Fell (350m). The rapid transition from plain to fell landscape is softened by the presence of thicker glacial deposits around the edge of the upland area. Several large blocks of conifer plantation are present, mainly in the south and north west. Dry stone walls are also common in some areas. Principally an area of intricate small-medium scale fields reflecting a long process of piecemeal colonisation and assortment.	The proposed wind turbine would be situated in the south-west corner of the NCA on the edge of Longridge Fell. The installation of the turbine would have a very localised, direct impact on the fabric of the landscape. The proposed wind turbine would be discernible amongst the existing telecoms masts and built development on the edge of the ridge and the industrial and commercial factories and buildings on the plain below.	Negligible adverse impact across the whole NCA. Slight adverse impact – in the south-west area of the LCA.	High – 52% of the LCA falls within the Forest of Bowland AONB. Medium – the area of the NCA on the lower fringe of Longridge Fell has a clearly defined sense of character in moderate condition and is partially tolerant of change of the proposed turbine.	Indirect Adverse There will only be a very localised slight impact on the pattern of the landscape. The character of the natural landscape would experience a slight adverse impact locally and a negligibly discernible change in the context of the whole National Character Area. The landform, scale and other woodland and river valley features would not be changed as a result of the proposed turbine. <u>Hence, it is assessed that the proposed turbine would cause a negligible adverse landscape impact relative to the wider landscape of the Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill character area.</u> <u>The location of the proposed wind turbine does not conflict with the relevant landscape descriptions i.e. "undulating and rolling landscape with local variation".</u> The scale of the landscape within which the turbine will be located is of a relatively local scale, and thus the local impact (assessed in relation to the Lancashire County Landscape Character Area of the Longridge Fells Fringes, below) is more appropriate to the overall landscape impact assessment.	Not significant.	The addition of this proposed turbine to others proposed would add a slight extra adverse impact, but it would be of no significant impact due to the medium sensitivity of the NCA landscape on the lower fringe of Longridge Fell.

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Lancashire County Landscape Character Area							
Moorland Fringe Area 4f – Longridge Fell Fringes	The undulating edges of Longridge Fell Fringes' rolling landscape are above the 150m contour line, and are influenced by its proximity to urban settlement. This area has been particularly affected by built development such as caravan parks, reservoirs, suburban development and golf courses, which offer alternative uses to agriculture but diminish its rural character. The settlement of Longridge, which overlooks the Ribble Valley, influences the character of the moorland fringe at its western end where the suburban edges of the settlement encroach into the rural upland landscape of the Moorland Fringes. Stone walls and Victorian reservoirs are particularly distinctive features of this landscape, although lack of management has led to barbed wire fences acting as stock proofing where walls are degraded and gaps have appeared. Country lanes afford occasional excellent views to the surrounding townlands. The more notable senses of remoteness and designated scenic qualities are experienced in the central and eastern territories of this Fell Fringes' area.	The proposed wind turbine would be situated within the south-west part of the LCA on the edge of ridge. The turbine would be discernible amongst the existing telecoms mast and built development on the edge of the ridge and the industrial and commercial factories and buildings on the plain below.	Moderate adverse The proposal will clearly be at odds with the landscape character of this small territorial area of the Longridge Fell Fringe LCA.	Medium The area has a clearly defined sense of character in moderate condition; an area valued at a local level, a landscape which is partially tolerant of a wind turbine. The "Sensitivity to Wind Energy Developments Lancashire (2005)" indicates that small scale turbines of the type proposed may be appropriate.	Indirect Adverse The proposed development is not considered to have any direct impacts on the physical characteristics of the local natural and historic landscape, yet would have an impact upon the perceptual and visual characteristics. When perceived from within the south-western territory of this Fell Fringe area, the perceptions and views of this landscape will include the proposed turbine in addition to the existing telecoms mast, yet only long distance views could include the moorland skyline beyond. The perceptions of the central and eastern territories of this landscape area will not change due to the intervening topography.	Moderately significant.	The addition of this proposed turbine to others proposed would add a slight adverse impact, assessed overall as not being significant due to the medium sensitivity of the landscape.

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Forest of Bowland Landscape Character Type							
D11 – Moorland Fringe Longridge	This area provides the northern setting for Longridge Fell and is therefore the foreground within many views southwards from character areas to the north; The small, linear hamlet of Walker Fold at the southern boundary of this area encompasses a row of gritstone cottages, several of which have grey-painted window and door frames; Views northwards to Longridge Fell are dominated by the dense cover of coniferous woodland. Features such as dry stone walls and small-medium field enclosures are typical of the is LCT and are present in the area surrounding the proposed turbine location. These are demonstrative of the long history of settlement within the LCT.	The proposed wind turbine would be situated within this Landscape Character Type (LCT) within the south-west part of the LCA on the edge of the ridge. The turbine would be discernible amongst the existing telecoms mast and built development on the edge of the ridge and the industrial and commercial factories and buildings on the plain below.	Moderate adverse The proposal will clearly be at odds with the landscape character of this small territorial area of the Moorland Fringe Longridge LCT.	Medium The LCT has a clearly defined sense of character in moderate condition; an area valued at a local level.	Indirect Adverse The views south-west from Longridge Fell would discern the proposed turbine amongst the existing telecoms mast and built development on the ridge and the industrial and commercial factories and buildings on the plain. There would be no direct or indirect impacts upon the hamlet of Walker Fold.	Moderately significant.	The addition of this proposed turbine to others proposed would add a slight adverse impact, assessed overall as not being significant due to the medium sensitivity of the landscape.

Landscape Character Type: **Moorland Fringe**
 Landscape Character Area: **4f Longridge Fell Fringes**

Refer to Appendix 2: Key for source of information in left hand column

Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development
PHYSICAL	Moderate-High
Scale:	In general this landscape forms the transition between the more settled valleys and other landscapes and the high moorland and the edge landscape to the distinctive outlier of Longridge Fell. As such it shows a transition of characteristics. The relatively large scale and exposed character of this landscape suggests a modest sensitivity to wind energy development. This character area is relatively well maintained.
Openness: <i>Enclosed – transitional between moorland and lowland farmed landscapes</i>	
Landform: <i>Rolling landscape</i>	
Landcover: <i>Unimproved agricultural grassland. Tree cover sparse</i>	
Complexity/ Pattern: <i>Stone walls and Victorian reservoirs. Characteristic diverse pattern.</i>	
Built Environment: <i>Close to urban settlement – affected by caravan parks, reservoirs, suburban development and golf courses. Victorian reservoirs. Distinctive vernacular architecture.</i>	
PERCEPTUAL	
Sense of remoteness: <i>Relatively remote</i>	
Perception of change: <i>Stone walls degraded, wire fences act as stock proofing.</i>	
VISUAL	
Settings: <i>Vertical components in the landscape could be silhouetted against the moorland skyline beyond.</i>	The area forms the lower part of the visual backdrop for the adjacent areas and this elevates its sensitivity. In most cases however this Moorland Fringe landscape does not form the skyline and therefore there may be opportunities for development within these areas. Such development would be backclothed by the higher parts of this character area and the Moorland Plateaux and Hills above, reducing its sensitivity.
Views: <i>Well used roads offer excellent views to the surrounding lowlands. Elevated and often long distance views from lay-bys and viewpoints.</i>	
VALUE	
Rarity:	This area is largely within the AONB and this reflects the visual quality of the landscape and its elevated sensitivity.
Designated scenic quality: <i>Most in AONB</i>	
Cultural associations: <i>Historic boundary walls.</i>	
Amenity and recreation: <i>Caravan parks and golf courses</i>	

Scale: Small and possibly medium scale.

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Aardvark EM Limited Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria

1 Landscape Assessment Criteria

1.1 Landscape Designations

Typical Scale	Typical Designation	Description
International	World Heritage Site	Unique sites, features or areas of international importance with views or settings that are of especially high quality.
National	National Park, AONBs, Grade I and II Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments	Unique sites, features or areas of nationally high visual quality landscape with views or settings which are also of high quality; valued areas of intact landscape character; important viewpoints; important routes; all with little or no degradation.
Regional	Special Landscape Areas, Areas of Great Landscape Value, Areas of Landscape Importance	Areas of high visual quality surrounding National Parks, and elsewhere; Conservation Areas; long distance footpaths; other landscape character areas with intact character and good views, landscapes whose value is exceptional through publications or artwork.
District or Local	District, local or no designation	General countryside area.
Local	Probably no designation	Other countryside, urban or industrial areas, local footpaths, areas with some degraded views.
Local	No designation	Degraded areas in need of improvement.

1.2 Landscape Sensitivity

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors by Reference to Users	
Sensitivity	Landscape
High	An area possessing a particularly distinctive sense of place, in good condition, or highly valued for its scenic quality and/or landscape character, a landscape with low tolerance to change of the type identified, for example National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coasts, setting of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments.
Medium	An area with a clearly defined sense of place and/or character in moderate condition; an area valued at a local or regional level, a landscape which is partially tolerant of change of the type identified.
Low	An area with a weak sense of place, and/or landscape character in poor condition, often not valued for its scenic quality, an area that is tolerant of substantial change of the type identified.

1.3 Landscape Impact Magnitude

The magnitude of landscape impact is assessed using the table below, and should be assessed in reference to landscape descriptions in the National Character Area text, regional landscape character type text and local Landscape Character/ Sensitivity Assessments, where available.

Landscape Impact Magnitude	
Category	Description
Major adverse landscape impact	The proposals will be at total variance with the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern and features of the landscape.
Moderate adverse landscape impact	The proposals will be clearly at odds with the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern and features of the landscape.
Slight adverse landscape impact	The proposals will not quite fit into the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern or features of the landscape.
Negligible adverse landscape impact	The proposals will create a just discernible change to the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern or features of the landscape.
No change	The proposals will not cause any change to the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern or features of the landscape.
Negligible landscape benefit	The proposals will provide a just discernible improvement to the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern or features of the landscape.
Slight landscape benefit	The proposals will achieve a degree of fit with the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern or features of the landscape, and go some way towards improving the condition or character of the landscape.
Moderate landscape benefit	The proposals will fit well into the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern or features of the landscape, or would noticeably improve the condition or character of the landscape.
Major landscape benefit	The proposals will totally accord with the landscape character, landform, scale, pattern or features of the landscape, or would restore, recreate or permanently benefit the condition or character of the landscape.

2 Visual Impact Assessment Criteria

2.1 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors	
Sensitivity	Visual Receptor
High	Viewers with proprietary interest and/or prolonged viewing opportunities and/or who have a particular interest in their visual environment and/or open to many viewers, for example visitors to landmark buildings or landscapes.
Medium	Viewers with moderate interest in their visual environment, for example users of local parks, open space facilities, walkers on footpaths or streets.
Low	Viewers with passing or momentary interest in their everyday surroundings, for example motorists or people at their place of work and/or infrequent viewers, whose attention is focussed on other activities and are therefore less susceptible to change.

2.2 Visual Impact Magnitude

Visual Impact Magnitude	
Visual Impact Magnitude	Description
Major adverse visual impact or benefit	The proposals will cause a dominant or complete change to the composition of the view, the appreciation of the landscape character, or the ability to take in or enjoy the view.
Moderate adverse visual impact or benefit	The proposals will cause a clearly noticeable change to the view, which would affect the composition, the appreciation of landscape character or the ability to take in or enjoy the view.
Slight adverse visual impact or benefit	The proposals will cause a perceptible change to the view, but which would not materially affect the composition, the appreciation of landscape character or the ability to take in or enjoy the view.
Negligible adverse visual impact or benefit	The proposals will cause a barely perceptible change to the view, which would not affect the composition, the appreciation of landscape character, or the ability to take in or enjoy the view.
No change	The proposals will cause no change to the view.
Neutral	There will be a change to the view, but it is not possible to judge whether this change is an adverse or beneficial impact.

3 Assessment of Landscape or Visual Impact Significance

The matrix below should be used to determine the overall landscape or visual impact significance, based on the sensitivity and magnitude of a proposed development.

Assessment of Landscape or Visual Significance					
Sensitivity of Resource	Major Impact or Benefit	Moderate Impact or Benefit	Slight Impact or Benefit	Negligible Impact or Benefit	Neutral Impact
High	Significant	Significant	Moderately Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Medium	Moderately Significant	Moderately Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Low	Moderately Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant

Table L2: Visual Impact Table

View Point	Location and National Grid Reference	Distance of view	County Landscape Character Area of Viewpoint	Designation	Direction of view to Site	Description of Baseline View	Type of View and Number of Users	Description of Change	Magnitude and type of visual impact	Sensitivity of Receptor	Significance of Impact	Cumulative
9	Corporation Arms garden NGR 361795, 437336	1,303m	Lower Ribble	None	20 degrees	View of Green Bank Park holiday hamlet, conifer plantation, improved grassland fields on the south-east slope of the lower ridge.	Open, medium	The turbine would be a clearly noticeable change to the view protruding above the immediate skyline.	Moderate, neutral - the addition of the turbine would not significantly affect the appreciation of this urban-fringe setting. The positive view of a renewable energy installation would be in keeping with the farm diversification project of the Green Bank Park holiday hamlet.	Medium	Moderately significant, (neutral)	The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be visible; the addition of the Hills Farm turbine would not be significant.
10	Beacon Reach Education Centre, Ward Green Lane NGR 363125, 437187	1,620m	Lower Ribble	None	327 degrees	View of the houses, barns, farms and fields on the south-east slope of the lower ridge.	Open, medium	The turbine would be a clearly noticeable change to the view protruding above the immediate skyline.	Moderate, neutral - the addition of the turbine would not significantly affect the appreciation of this countryside-fringe setting. The positive view of a renewable energy installation could supplement the sustainability messages of the life coaching experiences of the beneficiaries of the Beacon Reach Education Centre.	Medium	Moderately significant, (neutral)	The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be visible; the addition of the Hills Farm turbine would not be significant.
11	Knowle Green Village Hall NGR 363992, 438142	1,783m	Lower Ribble	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	283 degrees	View of the houses, barns, farms and fields on the south-east slope of the lower ridge.	Open, medium	The turbine would be a clearly noticeable change to the view protruding above the immediate skyline.	Moderate, adverse - the addition of the turbine would not significantly affect the appreciation of the countryside from the car park setting of the village hall. However, the appreciation of the character of the immediate landscape beyond the car park, at the very edge of the AONB, would be changed.	Medium	Moderately significant, (adverse)	The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be visible; the addition of the Hills Farm turbine would not be significant.
12	Ribble Valley Way, south-west of Ribchester NGR 364824, 434776	4,571m	Lower Ribble Valley	Scheduled Monument – Ribchester Roman Fort	326 degrees	View of the river plain fields (the site of the Scheduled Monument in the immediate foreground field) rising to the south-east slopes of the lower and middle of the ridge, with a dairy farm and tree-enclosed church and residences along the Ribble Valley Way footpath on the edge of the Conservation Area. National Grid pylons are immediately overhead.	Oblique, few	The turbine would be visible on the ridge, protruding above the skyline.	Slight and negligible, adverse - the 4.6km distance and turbine being perceptible and barely perceptible (depending upon the weather/visibility) above the ridge would not affect the composition of the river valley landscape, nor the appreciation thereof, or the ability to enjoy the open views up and down the riverplain. There is no visual sense of the Scheduled Monument nor signage regarding the Conservation Area; the Listed Church is surrounded by trees and modern houses – hence the setting and sense of the history of the immediate surroundings are both not explicitly noticeable nor implicitly felt. Rather, the overbearing National Grid pylons overhead provide a feeling of modern industry.	Medium	Not significant	The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be perceptible and barely perceptible (depending upon the weather/visibility); the addition of the Hills Farm turbine would not be significant.
13	A59 east of Copster Green NGR 368694, 434337	7,694m	Lower Ribble	None	303 degrees	View of the river plain fields, farm buildings and hamlets rising to the south-east slopes of the lower and middle of the ridge.	Open, many	The turbine would be visible on the ridge, protruding above the skyline.	Slight and negligible, neutral - the 7.7km distance and turbine being perceptible and barely perceptible (depending upon the weather/visibility) above the ridge would not affect the composition of the river valley landscape, nor the appreciation thereof, or the ability to enjoy the open views down the riverplain. The positive view of a renewable energy installation could counter the major environmental impacts of the nearby heavy industrial and military manufacturing plants.	Low	Not significant	The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be perceptible and barely perceptible (depending upon the weather/visibility); the addition of the Hills Farm turbine would not be significant.

Terminology for Visual Impact:

Distance of View: Local (0-1.5km)
Medium (>1.5-3km)
Distant (>3km)

Type of View: Obscured, Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed

Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many

Magnitude of Impact: No change, Negligible, Slight, Moderate, Major

Type of Impact: Beneficial, Adverse, Neutral

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor: Low, Medium, High

Significance: Not Significant, Moderately Significant, Significant

Table L2: Visual Impact Table

View Point	Location and National Grid Reference	Distance of view	County Landscape Character Area of Viewpoint	Designation	Direction of view to Site	Description of Baseline View	Type of View and Number of Users	Description of Change	Magnitude and type of visual impact	Sensitivity of Receptor	Significance of Impact	Cumulative
1	1: AoNB boundary footpath stile at Fell House and Myers Farms NGR 363302, 439716	1: 1,567m	1: Longridge Fell	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1: 221 degrees	1: The view is from where the public footpath joins the lane at the boundary of the AoNB. The view south-west towards the proposed turbine is enclosed by trees and agricultural buildings. Views west and south-east are of the suburban countryside, built development of the towns and industrial estates of the plains below.	1: Obscured, few	1: The turbine would be totally obscured by the trees and buildings in the foreground.	No change	High	Not significant	1: The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be totally obscured from view.
1b	1b: AoNB – Higher Road above Fell House Farm NGR 363411, 439803	1b: 2,048m	1b: Longridge Fell	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1b: 223 degrees	1b: From Higher Road, south-west down the ridge of the farm buildings and telecoms mast in the foreground and plains below with major built development of Preston North End football stadium, BAE Systems airfield and industrial sheds and other major commercial and industrial estates, Preston and surrounding villages clearly visible in the mid-distance.	1b: Open, few	1b: the blades of the turbine would be visible above the farm buildings and next to the telecoms mast, with Preston as the backdrop down on the plain. The turbine blades would not break the skyline of the horizon.	Moderate, adverse – a clearly noticeable change which would affect the composition of the view, yet not significantly reduce the appreciation of the landscape character of the lower fell ridge or ability to enjoy the view, due to the surrounding built development and industrial backdrop.	High	Significant (adverse)	1b: the upper blade tip of the proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would be noticeable above the agricultural buildings; the addition of the Hills Farm turbine would be of moderate significance.
2	AoNB boundary along Old Clitheroe Road above Huntingdon Hall NGR 365974, 439462	3,830m	Longridge Fell	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	256 degrees	View west of the grazed, fenced moorland and mixed woodland along the boundary of the AoNB, above the parkland of Huntingdon Hall.	Obscured, few	The turbine would be totally obscured by the mixed plantation of Low Hill Wood.	No change	High	Not significant	The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be totally obscured from view.
3	Longridge Fell above Jeffrey Hill layby NGR 364153, 440219	2,532m	Longridge Fell	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	228 degrees	From the footpath on the open access land of Jeffrey Hill, south-west down the ridge of the moorland fringes and improved grassland, farm buildings and telecoms mast in the foreground and plains below with major built development of Preston North End football stadium, BAE Systems airfield and industrial sheds and other major commercial and industrial estates, Preston and surrounding villages clearly visible in the mid-distance.	Open, moderate	The turbine mast (upper) and blades would be visible down the ridge, seen between the telecoms mast and Preston North End football stadium.	Moderate, adverse – a clearly noticeable change which would affect the composition of the view, yet not significantly reduce the appreciation of the landscape character of the lower fell ridge or ability to enjoy the view, due to the surrounding built development and industrial backdrop.	High	Significant (adverse)	The proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would also be visible; the addition of the Hills Farm turbine would be of moderate significance.
4	East of Chipping NGR 362538.78, 443671.34	5,133m	Lower Hodder and Loud Valley	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	182.65 degrees	From the country land east of Chipping towards the village and Longridge Fell to the south. The view of the roofs of the village buildings and top of the church tower is framed and glimpsed through the trees. Longridge Fell forms the skyline and provides the enclosed sense of the lower valley.	Glimpsed, few	The uppermost blade could be barely perceptible protruding above the skyline of the ridge 5km to the South.	Negligible, adverse – the 5km distance and sole blade being barely perceptible behind the ridge would not significantly affect the composition of the valley and ridge landscape, nor the appreciation thereof, or the ability to enjoy the tree-lined view on the approach to Chipping.	High	Not significant	The Dutton Doghouse turbine and proposed Dilworth Brows turbine would be totally obscured from view by the topography of Longridge Fell. The addition of the Hills Farm turbine would not be significant.

Terminology for Visual Impact:

Distance of View Local (0-1.5km)
 Medium (>1.5-3km)
 Distant (>3km)

Type of View: Obscured, Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed
 Number of Viewers: Few, Moderate, Many

Magnitude of Impact: No change, Negligible, Slight, Moderate, Major
 Type of Impact: Beneficial, Adverse, Neutral

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor: Low, Medium, High
 Significance: Not Significant, Moderately Significant, Significant