

## LCT 26: THE COAST

The Coast LCAs extend around the northeast coast of Banff & Buchan. They are mainly narrow, usually 1km or less in width, so limited in extent. They comprise a mixture of rocky cliffs and coves, and sections of coast with broad, lower dune systems. They contain areas of farmland, which merge into coastal grasslands and scrub, or end abruptly at a beach or cliff. All are defined by their general openness and exposure to coastal views and weather. Inland most of these LCAs merge with the Coastal Farmland LCAs. They are visually sensitive due to their value as a recreational destination and large number of visitors.

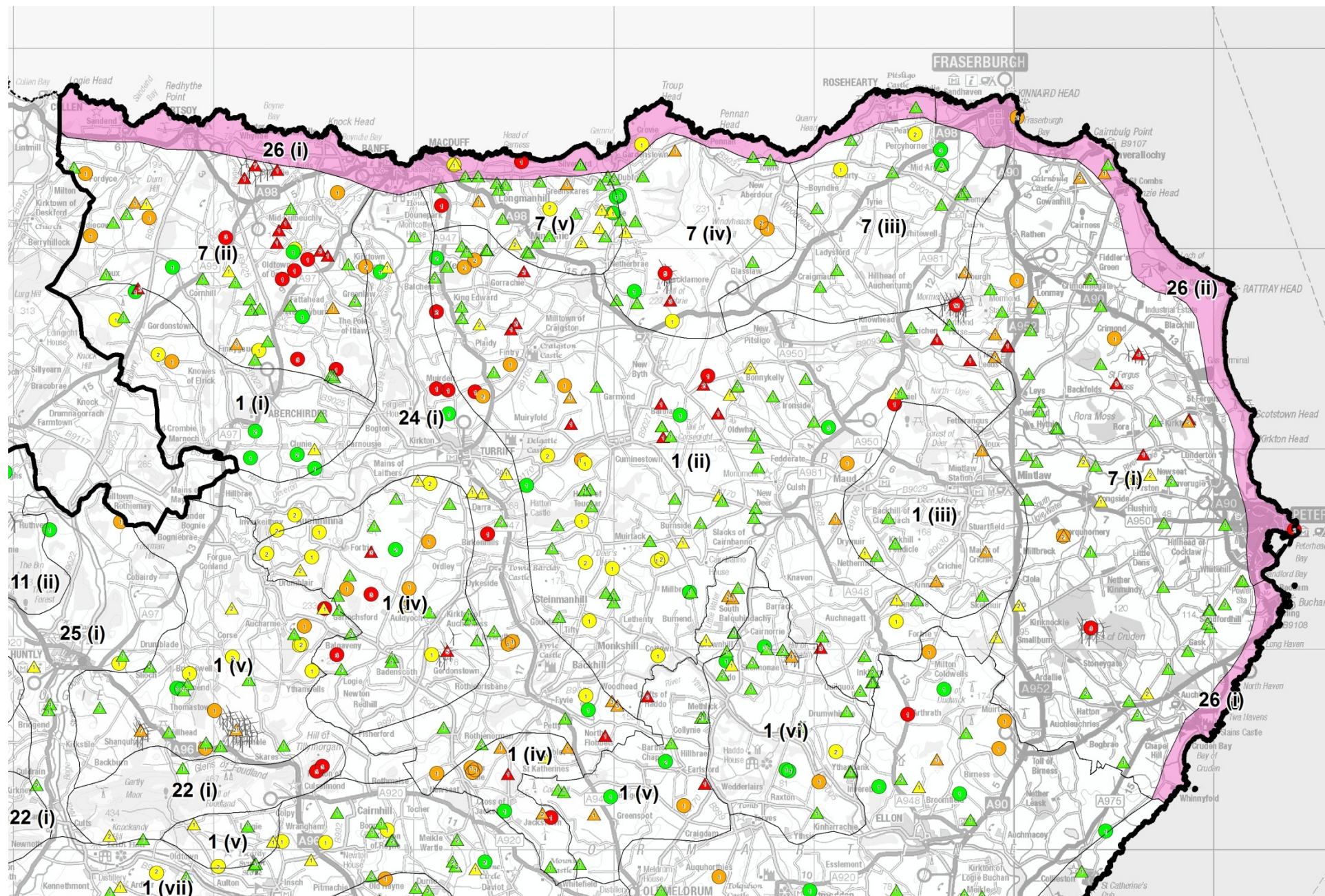
### 26 (i) CLIFFS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH-EAST COASTS

This is an area of high headlands, sheer cliffs, occasional narrow inlets and sheltered bays along this rocky coastline. Small distinctive coastal settlements such as Pennan and Crovie are huddled at the

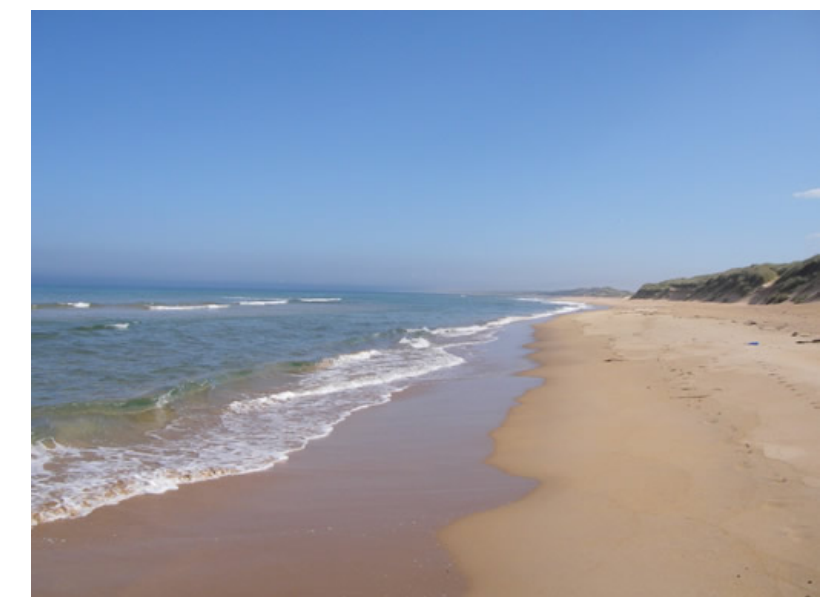
base of cliffs, together with the larger settlements of Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The farmland stretches to the edges of the cliffs with a very simple pattern of fields. Field boundaries are limited to low gorse hedges and there are few trees, the areas being open and windswept. This part of the Coast is more elevated and exposed than the dune areas with expansive views from the north across the Moray Firth and mountains beyond.

### 26(ii) DUNES AND BEACHES FROM FRASERBURGH TO PETERHEAD

In the other characteristic type of Coast Landscape, the extensive dunes have wide beaches, dynamic dune systems, open views and the absence of tree cover. It forms one of the longest stretches of beach in Europe. The farmland inland merges into coastal grasslands and sandy shorelines. They alternate with stretches low cliffs and with coastal settlements. The RSPB reserve at the Loch of Strathbeg is the largest dune lake in Britain. With few vertical features the chimneys of the massive St Fergus Gas Terminal, act as foci and are visible for miles along this stretch of coast.



26(i) Complex rocky headlands, with few trees and gorse.



26(ii) An area of extensive dunes with wide beaches.



**Table 6.1(a): Summary of Landscape Capacity, Cumulative Effects and Guidance for Future Wind Energy Development: Coast**

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: 26. COAST																		
Key: <input type="radio"/> No Capacity <input type="radio"/> Low Capacity <input checked="" type="radio"/> Medium Capacity <input type="radio"/> High Capacity																		
Turbine Size: Small/Medium=15-<30m; Medium=30-<50m; Medium/Large=50-<80m; Large= 80m+; Very Large=125m+																		
BASE LANDSCAPE CAPACITY (ie. not taking account of current wind energy development)					CURRENT CONSENTED DEVELOPMENT			PROPOSED LIMITS TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (ie. proposed acceptable level of wind energy development)										
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development				Landscape Capacity (Related to turbine size)					Existing/ Consented Developments	Current Wind Energy Landscape Type(s)	Future Wind Energy Landscape Type(s)	Remaining Landscape Capacity (Related to turbine size)					Current Applications	Analysis & Guidelines (Refer to Detailed Guidance for Further Information on Siting and Design)
Landscape Character Sensitivity	Visual Sensitivity	Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Value	S/M	M	M/L	L	VL				S/M	M	M/L	L	VL		
<b>26 (i) Landscape Character Areas: Cliffs of the North and South-East Coasts</b>																		
Med/High	Med/High	Med/High	High	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Current development limited to seven small/medium turbines and one medium turbine. These are generally located close to farms and farm buildings.  Numerous small/medium turbines and nine large turbines at Boyndie are located along the edge of this LCA in the coastal farmlands. These turbines influence and in the case of Boyndie dominate a large stretch of this coast	<i>The Coast with No Wind Turbines/ The Coast with Occasional Wind Turbines</i>	<i>The Coast with No Wind Turbines</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	One large turbine and two medium/large turbines are proposed within this area.  Several medium and large turbines at the northern edge of the adjoining Coastal Farmland LCAs.	<b>Landscape Analysis:</b> No turbines over 15m, this type is not suitable for wind turbine development due to its limited extent (regionally), high quality, scale, visibility and high value.  In particular the complex features such as rocky promontories, knolls, cliffs and the coastal edge itself together with the lack of tree cover make this area unsuitable for wind turbines.  <b>Comments on Consented and Proposed Turbines:</b> Current proposals within this area and also those in adjacent areas (which have a strong visual influence on parts of the Coast) would exceed the landscape capacity of this LCA.
											<i>Max. Numbers in Group</i>							
											<i>Min Group Separation Distances (km)</i>							
<b>26 (ii) Landscape Character Areas: Dunes and Beaches from Fraserburgh to Peterhead</b>																		
Med/High	High	Med/High	Med/High	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Current development one small/medium turbine and one medium turbine. Numerous small/medium & medium turbines and nine large turbines (close to St Fergus Moss) are located along the edge of this LCA in the Coastal Farmlands and these turbines influence this coast.	<i>The Coast with No Wind Turbines/ The Coast with Occasional Wind Turbines</i>	<i>The Coast with Occasional Wind Turbines</i>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Two large turbines and two medium/large turbines are proposed within this area (both within towns),	<b>Landscape Analysis:</b> This Coastal Strip LCA is only suitable for small-scale wind turbine development due to its limited extent (regionally), high quality and visibility.  <b>Comments on Consented and Proposed Turbines:</b> Current proposals would exceed the capacity of this LCA.
											<i>Max. Numbers in Group</i>	1-3						
											<i>Min Group Separation Distances (km)</i>	4-6						

## GUIDANCE: LCT 26: THE COAST

### 26(ii) DUNES AND BEACHES FROM FRASERBURGH TO PETERHEAD

#### Proposed Limits to Future Development: Coast with Occasional Wind Turbines

Turbine Sizes: 15-<30m (small/medium);

Group Sizes: 1-3 (small/medium);

Separation Distances: 4-6km (small/medium).

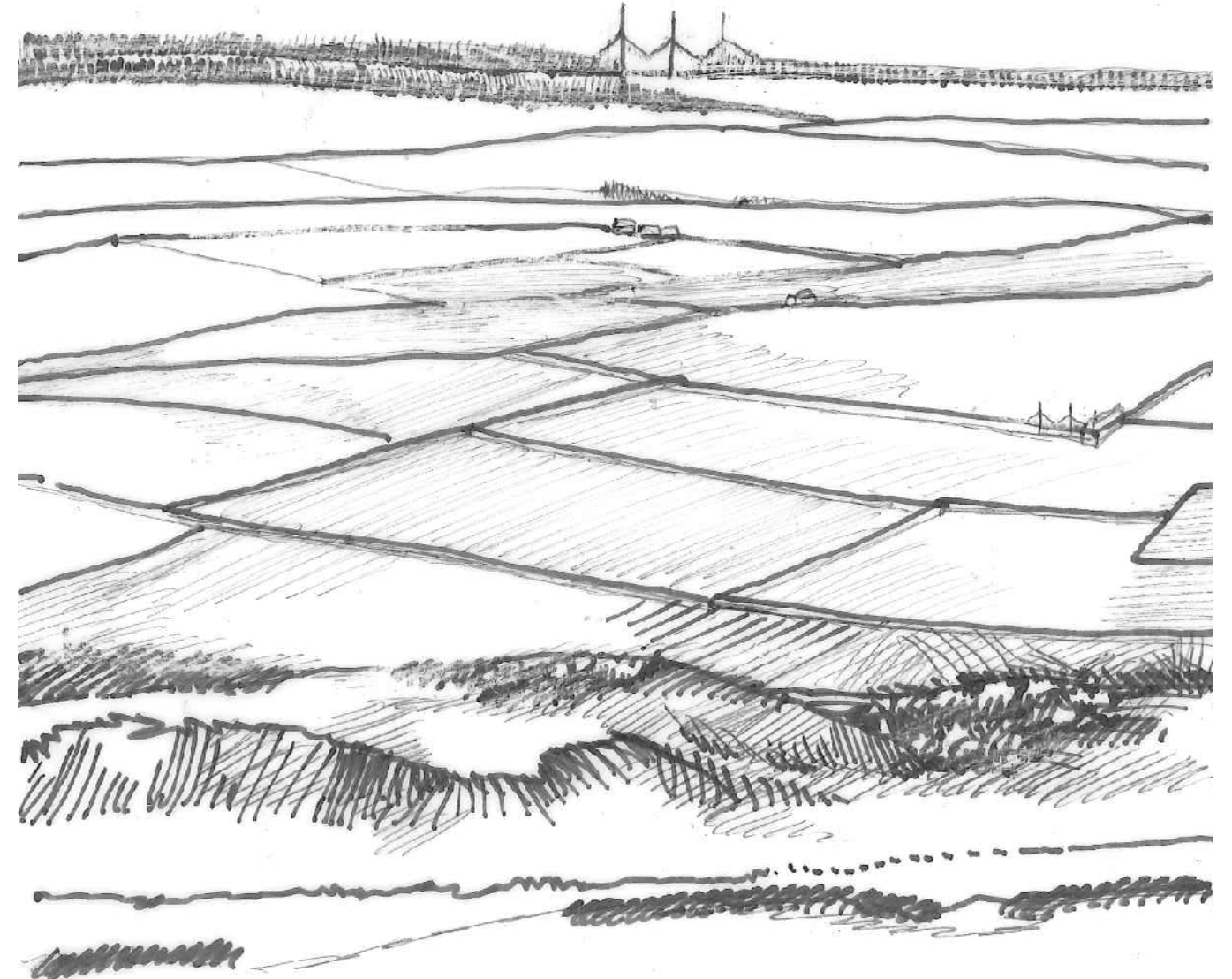
#### Detailed Guidance

Whilst the open windswept character is suitable for wind energy, larger scale turbines would be highly intrusive, being highly visible against the sea and sky and out of scale with the landform, low buildings and wind pruned trees.

Turbines should be sited where they can be associated with built development, away from the more complex or diverse features such as the dune systems, beaches and the coastal edge itself. Given the expansive nature and widespread views, the wide spacing of turbines is critical.

Where there are two or three closely located applications for single turbines of the same size, exploit opportunities for clustering as a group in preference to separation. Consideration is given in the *Coastal Farmland* guidance to ensuring larger turbines in the neighbouring LCAs do not dominate the coastal strip.

There are currently one small/medium turbine and one medium turbine. Two large turbines and two medium/large turbines are proposed within this area (both within towns), but these would have a very strong visual influence on this coast and would exceed the capacity of this LCA.



*Large turbines should be set well back into the Coastal Farmland, with turbines under 30m associated with development near the coast. These small/medium turbines should be kept back from the complex and diverse dunes, beaches and relate to farm buildings or small settlements.*

