UNDERSTANDING AND PURPOSE OF THESE FIGURES

These figures are intended to accompany the detailed written descriptions of the final 26 Viewpoints that have been included to represent views of the Propose Development from various parts of the Study Area. They include computer-generated wirelines and photomontages for Viewpoints 1 - 20 and 23 and wirelin only visualisations of Viewpoints 20 - 22 and 24 - 26 because these are located in excess of 20 km from the Proposed Development and the turbines are there fore unlikely to be easily discernible. The purpose of these figures is to help the assessor establish visual effects by providing a 'snapshot' of what the Propose Development would look like from various parts of the Study Area. They must always be viewed in conjunction with the analysis of landscape and visual effect contained in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement and the detailed methodology for the LVIA that is described in Technical Appendix 4.2 as well as a visit all of the viewpoints in appropriate weather conditions. Detailed descriptions of the final Viewpoints are an integral part of the visual impact assessment sectio of Chapter 4, LVIA. Viewpoint locations are shown on Figure 4.3 and all other map-based Figures for ease of reference. Wirelines are not intended to be visual representative images but they are generally accepted as an illustrative digital imaging tool. They provide a good indication of the location of the Proposed Deve opment within the landscape and its relationship with other wind farms and single turbines in the Study Area, including those which have not yet been constructed or which are are still in planning. If these limitations are recognised, visualisations can be accepted as adequate representations for the purpose of the LVI. The methodology for producing these visualisations is described in detail in Technical Appendix 4.2 and conforms with relevant parts of the best practice guidance documents listed in Technical Appendix 4.1.

On the wireline diagrams the turbine blades are displayed at an angle of 0°, i.e. the uppermost blade is always shown pointing directly upwards, in order to der onstrate the highest possible level of visibility. Random blade angles are shown on the photomontages because this is more realistic. All cumulative wind farm including any which may appear within the view but which are located beyond the field of view that it is possible to illustrate on A3-sized figures, are also labelle on the wireline. However, only existing wind farms and single turbines are shown on the photomontages (i.e. those that are already present within the phot graphs). This is in accordance with best practice guidance.

In many scenarios wind farms are visible as elements of wide angle views which can only be appreciated if viewers turn their head from side to side or trav through the landscape. Wirelines and photomontages show the turbines in accurate proportion to other visual elements. However, the overall scale of the view reduced by the practical need to illustrate the view on a single sheet of paper that allows as many people as possible to have fair and easy access to the publishe Environmental Statement. Features that are of note in wider views, but which are beyond the angle that can be illustrated in the viewpoint figures, such as othe wind farms, are included in the detailed written descriptions of viewpoints in the LVIA report and considered in the assessment of effects.

Visualisations are prepared in accordance with the SNH best practice guidance as far as practical and SNH's best practice guidance recommends that the followin information on the limitations of visualisations is included in all LVIA methodologies:

"Visualisations of wind farms have a number of limitations which you should be aware of when using them to form a judgement on a wind farm proposal. These include:

- A visualisation can never show exactly what the wind farm will look like in reality due to factors such as: different lighting, weather and seasonal conditions which vary
 through time and the resolution of the image;
- The images provided give a reasonable impression of the scale of the turbines and the distance to the turbines, but can never be 100% accurate;
- A static image cannot convey turbine movement, or flicker or reflection from the sun on the turbine blades as they move;
- The viewpoints illustrated are representative of views in the area, but cannot represent visibility at all locations;
- To form the best impression of the impacts of the wind farm proposal these images are best viewed at the viewpoint location shown;
- The images must be printed at the right size to be viewed properly (The visualisations in this LVIA should be printed at A3); You should hold the images flat at a comfortable arm's length. If viewing these images on a wall or board at an exhibition, you should stand at arm's length from the image presented to gain the best impression.
- It is preferable to view printed images rather than view images on screen. If you do view images on screen you should do so using a normal PC screen with the image enlarged to the full screen height to give a realistic impression. Do not use a tablet or other device with a smaller screen to view the visualisations described in this guidance."

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