CA07: South Lizard Peninsula

Key Landscape Characteristics

- Gently undulating open upland plateau with low central ridge, falling away to east and west, more steeply near the coast.
- Open and treeless landscape, with extensive areas of Lowland Heathland and rough ground within pastoral farmland.
- Contrasting field patterns of small, irregular, anciently enclosed land of medieval origin and more regular, medium scale, recently enclosed land, fringing the unenclosed rough ground.
- Mainly pastoral improved fields with few arable bounded by Cornish hedges with wind pruned hedgerow trees and scrubby margins.
- Narrow and occasionally steeply incised wooded stream valleys with tumbling streams lined with woodland and little tree cover on the plateau.
- Numerous traces of past human activity on the downs, from Bronze Age barrows to remains of postmedieval peat cutting.
- Military and communications land use and heritage.
- A few coastal villages with isolated cottages and small farms inland.
- High indented cliffs with boulders on shoreline, rocky outcrops on headlands and wildflower-filled coves.
- Sparse transport pattern with many ancient trackways.
- Significant areas of unenclosed rough ground.
- Dramatic coastal scenery and far reaching views.

(see map overleaf)

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### Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Wind Turbines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Lower sensitivity</th>
<th>Higher sensitivity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landform and scale</strong></td>
<td>An extensive gently undulating elevated plateau, falling away to east and west and</td>
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<td>with a coastline of high, steep cliffs indented by tight narrow coves. On the more</td>
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<td></td>
<td>sheltered eastern side the land is more folded with narrow valleys carrying water off</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the plateau to the sea.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features</strong></td>
<td>Varies between extensive unenclosed heathland with simple landcover pattern (heathland, conifer blocks, and large, regular recently enclosed land) and more complex pattern of enclosed farmland with small-scale, irregular medieval fields and valleys containing woodland and scrub. Human scale features are located in the farmland around the open heathland and include Cornish hedges, trees, farm buildings, and cottages.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tracks/transport pattern</strong></td>
<td>The A3083, B3293 and the minor road that runs straight across the Downs from Goonhilly to Kuggar and Ruan Minor provide access to the LCA. Apart from this the roads are narrow and winding.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skylines</strong></td>
<td>Although the LCA description does not refer specifically to skylines, it notes the</td>
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<td>Lizard Lighthouse, the large satellite dishes and conifer plantations on Goonhilly Downs, the windmill tower on the east side of Predannack Downs and the wind turbines near Bonython as landmarks. The LCA description also refers to two spectacular Iron Age cliff castles at Chynalls and Lankidden.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Perceptual qualities</strong></td>
<td>This is an open and exposed landscape with dramatic rough and rugged scenery and long panoramic views, the latter especially along the coast. The AONB description notes the strong sense of isolation in this part of the AONB.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Historic landscape character</strong></td>
<td>Cornwall Council’s HLC Sensitivity Mapping for wind turbines assesses the HLC types of ‘Upland Rough Ground’ and ‘Coastal Rough Ground’, which make up a significant proportion of the LCA, to be highly vulnerable to wind turbines. Large areas of ‘Medieval’ land, surrounding the areas of Upland Rough Ground, are also assessed as of moderate-high vulnerability, whilst areas of lower sensitivity are associated with the smaller areas of ‘Post-Medieval (Intakes)’ – assessed as of moderate-low vulnerability – and ‘Modern Enclosures’ – assessed of low vulnerability.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Distinctive landscape features</strong></td>
<td>The LCA description notes the satellite dishes and wind turbines at Goonhilly; the rocky cliff tops, especially on west-facing coast, some with small, often inaccessible (by car) sandy beaches (Kynance Cove) and distinctive geological features (Serpentine works); the Lizard lighthouse; the thatched cottages at Cadgwith; and Predannack airfield as distinctive features of this landscape. Some of these could be affected by wind energy development.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scenic quality</strong></td>
<td>The whole of this LCA falls within the ‘South Coast Western’ section (The Lizard Peninsula) of the Cornwall AONB, and the western half of the landscape is also defined as Heritage Coast. Qualities that may particularly be affected by wind energy development are the majestic scale of the cliffs, the strong sense of isolation, the prominence and skyline of the Lizard lighthouse, and the winding narrow roads.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overall sensitivity</strong></td>
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</table>
The landscape’s ‘wild’ and dramatic coastline and its immediate hinterland, and areas of rough ground would be particularly sensitive to the development of wind turbines. The least sensitive parts of the LCA are the larger scale landscapes of recently enclosed land to the north of the LCA, away from the coast and outside the areas of unenclosed heath.

### Sensitivities to different turbine heights

- **Very small:** 18-25m
- **Small:** 26-60m
- **Medium:** 61-99m
- **Large:** 100-150m

The landscape’s ‘wild’ and dramatic coastline, and areas of rough ground would be sensitive to any wind turbines. Areas of smaller scale medieval farmland will be particularly sensitive to any large or medium turbines, although the areas of large scale fields of recently enclosed land to the north are less sensitive.

### Sensitivities to different cluster sizes and distribution

- **Single turbine**
- **Small (≤5 turbines)**
- **Medium (6-10)**
- **Large (11-25)**
- **Very large (≥25)**

The landscape’s ‘wild’ and dramatic coastline, and areas of rough ground would be sensitive to any wind turbines. Other areas would be particularly sensitive to ‘very large’, ‘large’ or ‘medium’ clusters of wind turbines.

## Landscape strategy and Guidance for Wind Turbines

### Landscape strategy

Since this LCA falls entirely within the Cornwall AONB the landscape strategy is for a **landscape without wind energy development** (except for occasional very small scale single turbines linked to existing buildings eg farm buildings), with **no turbines** along the undulating and undeveloped coastline and its immediate hinterland, or within unspoilt areas of open heathland. However, the sensitivity assessment indicates that areas of recently enclosed land in the northern part of the LCA may have a greater flexibility to accommodate turbines larger than domestic scale. Collectively turbines within the LCA should not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape.

### Siting Guidance

See Annex 2 of the Technical Report for generic siting and design guidance. In addition, the following guidance should apply to any wind energy developments within this LCA:

- Locate wind energy development away from the coastline, particularly its prominent headlands and cliff tops.
- Areas of Medieval Farmland and long narrow ancient fields are more sensitive to wind turbines (particularly large scale turbines) than areas of modern or post-medieval fields.
- Ensure size of turbine and development cluster responds to landscape scale.
(which varies across the LCA).

- Utilise areas of woodland, including plantations, to screen ground-level features of wind turbine developments wherever possible.
- Ensure wind energy development does not dominate, or prevent the understanding and appreciation of, historic landmarks on the skyline, including the lighthouse at Lizard Point, Iron Age cliff castles at Chynalls and Lankidden, the remains of Predannack windmill.
- Any new development will need to consider cumulative impact with existing developments.
- Avoid siting turbines within the HLC Types of ‘Upland Rough Ground’ and ‘Coastal Rough Ground’ – assessed by Cornwall Council as being highly vulnerable to wind energy development.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. the South West Coastal Path) when considering the siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape – if development will be visible, aim for a balanced composition.
- Ensure wind energy development does not dominate or adversely affect the rocky cliff tops with their distinctive geological features, the Lizard lighthouse, or the thatched cottages at Cadgwith as distinctive features of this landscape.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cornwall AONB (particularly the majestic scale of the cliffs, the strong sense of isolation, the prominence and skyline of the Lizard lighthouse, and the winding narrow roads) – ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these.
## Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Solar PV Development

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landform</strong></td>
<td>A gently undulating plateau landscape with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes - on the more sheltered eastern side the land is more folded with narrow valleys carrying water off the plateau to the sea.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sense of openness / enclosure</strong></td>
<td>The plateau and cliffs are open and exposed, with little tree cover apart from occasional conifer blocks (e.g. on Goonhilly Downs). Fields surrounding the downs are bounded by Cornish hedges, with frequent hedgerow trees in the more sheltered locations and the valleys draining the plateau (particularly in the south-east and east) have a contrasting sense of enclosure.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field pattern and scale</strong></td>
<td>The open and unenclosed inland and coastal heaths are surrounded by a mixture of mainly small-scale, irregular medieval fields interspersed with larger, rectilinear post-medieval fields and recently enclosed land.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Landcover</strong></td>
<td>Open pastoral farmland (with some arable and recreation) and extensive heath especially on the western side of the area linked with the coastal heath.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Perceptual qualities</strong></td>
<td>This is an open and exposed landscape with dramatic rough and rugged scenery and long panoramic views, the latter especially along the coast. The AONB description notes the strong sense of isolation in this part of the AONB.</td>
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<td><strong>Historic landscape character</strong></td>
<td>Cornwall Council’s HLC Sensitivity Mapping for solar PV installations assesses the HLC types of ‘Rough Ground’, which make up a significant proportion of the LCA’s plateau and coast, to be highly vulnerable to solar PV development. Large areas of ‘Medieval’ land, surrounding the areas of unenclosed rough ground, are assessed as moderate-high vulnerability, whilst areas of lower vulnerability are associated with the smaller areas of ‘Post-Medieval (Intakes)’ – assessed as of moderate vulnerability – and ‘Modern Enclosures’ – assessed of moderate-low vulnerability.</td>
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<td><strong>Distinctive landscape features</strong></td>
<td>The LCA description notes the satellite dishes and wind turbines at Goonhilly; the rocky cliff tops, especially on west-facing coast, some with small, often inaccessible (by car) sandy beaches (Kynance Cove) and distinctive geological features (Serpentine works); the Lizard lighthouse; the thatched cottages at Cadgwith; and Predannack airfield as distinctive features of this landscape. These are unlikely to be affected by solar PV development.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scenic quality</strong></td>
<td>The whole of this LCA falls within the ‘South Coast Western’ section of the Cornwall AONB, and the western half of the landscape is also defined as Heritage Coast. Qualities that may particularly be affected by solar PV development are the unenclosed downland plateau with strong sense of isolation and exposure and the intricate field pattern.</td>
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<td><strong>Overall sensitivity</strong></td>
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</table>
Although the gently undulating plateau landform, presence of some sheltered areas, presence of human influences, and apparent lack of distinctive features that could be affected by solar PV development could indicate a lower levels of sensitivity, the high scenic quality as recognised through AONB designation, strong sense of openness on the plateau, large areas of rough ground and rugged and prominent coastline heighten levels of sensitivity to the extent that overall this landscape is considered to have a moderate-high sensitivity to solar PV development.

The large, open tracts of heathland on the plateau and undeveloped coast would be particularly sensitive to solar PV development.

The large, open tracts of heathland on the plateau and undeveloped coast would be sensitive to any solar PV development.

The enclosed parts of the landscape would be particularly sensitive to the 'large' and 'medium' scale developments due to the size of the fields.

The landscape strategy is for a landscape without solar PV development (except for very occasional very small scale well sited developments associated with existing buildings in more enclosed areas) and no solar PV developments along the undeveloped and open coastline and its immediate hinterland, or within unspoilt areas of open heathland.

See Annex 3 of the Technical Report for generic siting and design guidance. In addition, the following guidance should apply to any solar PV developments within this LCA:

- Locate development within dips and sheltered folds in the undulating landform of the hills or in flat areas where ground level vegetation may provide a screen to development.
- Avoid locating any development in the large, open tracts of heathland on the plateau or along the undeveloped coast.
- In areas of medieval fields, preserve the strong field patterns by minimising the number of adjacent fields that are developed and setting PV panels back from the edges of fields.
- Avoid siting solar PV development within the HLC Types of ‘Upland Rough Ground’ and ‘Coastal Rough Ground’ – assessed by Cornwall Council as being highly vulnerable.
- Consider views from local viewpoints and popular routes (e.g. the South West Coastal Path) when considering the siting and design of solar PV development in the landscape - avoid locating solar PV development where it would be directly overlooked at close quarters.
- Ensure solar PV development does not dominate or adversely affect the rocky cliff tops with their distinctive geological features, the Lizard lighthouse, the thatched cottages at Cadgwith or Predannack airfield as distinctive features of this landscape.
- Protect the factors which contribute to the scenic quality of the Cornwall AONB (particularly the unenclosed downland plateau with strong sense of isolation and exposure and the intricate field pattern) – ensure choice of site and scale of development does not detract from these qualities.