

LCT 24: RIVER VALLEYS

The River Valleys LCT is restricted to the northern area of Aberdeenshire. They are the distinctive valley landforms formed by the rivers whose source is the high moorland and Grampian Mountains in the west. Their principal characteristics are the river and valley. Medium to small in scale and enclosed, the type is relatively rare in distribution within north east of Scotland.

24 (i) DEVERON AND UPPER YTHAN VALLEYS

In Banff and Buchan is the *Deveron and Upper Ythan Valley*, which is a shallow valley that flows out to the sea at Macduff. Its sides are clothed with a mix of broadleaved and conifer woodlands and its floor has farmland running to the river's edge. Its shelter has resulted in settlements such as Turriff, Fyvie and large estates resulting in five HGDLs. It is an attractive river valley with a high degree of integrity.



24(i) The broad, shallow valley landform and the River Deveron give this area a higher degree of sensitivity to wind energy development than the surrounding Agricultural Heartland farmland.

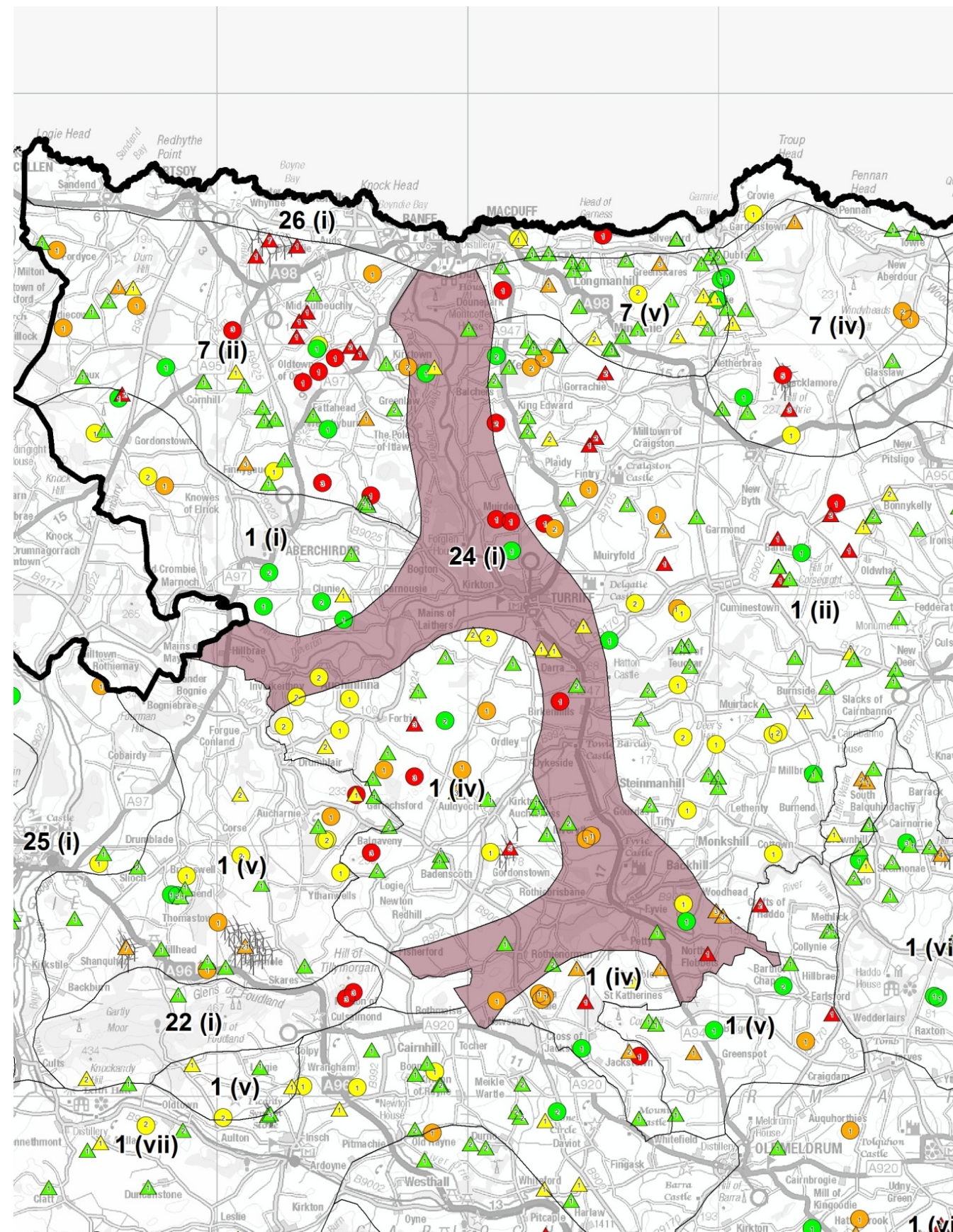


Table 6.1(j): Summary of Landscape Capacity, Cumulative Effects and Guidance for Future Wind Energy Development: River Valleys

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: 24.RIVER VALLEYS																		
Key: <input type="radio"/> No Capacity <input type="radio"/> Low Capacity <input 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		
24 (i) Landscape Character Areas: Deveron and Upper Ythan Valleys																		
Med/High	Med/High	Med/High	Med/High	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	One large, six medium/large, four medium and seven small/medium turbines consented. Adjacent wind farms at Hill of Tipperty (3 large), Hill of Culincraig (3 large) and Gordonstown (5 large), together with numerous predominately small/medium sited in adjoining LCAs along the edges of the valley visually influence this LCA.	Straths and River Valleys with Occasional Wind Turbines/ with Wind Turbine Straths and River Valleys	Straths and River Valleys with No Turbines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Proposals for three large, five medium/large, five medium and three small/medium turbines.	<p>Landscape Analysis: This area is unsuitable for turbines due to its medium scale, valley landform, quality, pattern, high value and visual sensitivity.</p> <p>These areas would be unsuitable for wind turbine development beyond a domestic scale, less than 15m associated with farm buildings or tourist facilities and at the base of slopes.</p> <p>Comments on Consented and Proposed Turbines: This LCA has exceeded its capacity in the south.</p> <p>Proposals will further exceed capacity and result in a Landscape with Wind Turbines</p> <p>Additionally proposals for large, medium/large and medium turbines adjacent to Deveron and Upper Ythan Valley, located in neighbouring Agricultural Heartland and Coastal farmland LCUs would also exceed the landscape capacity of this LCA</p>