



Pennant Walters

GLANLLYNFI GARTH WIND FARM

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 6F - LANDMAP Visual and Sensory
Aspect Areas: Assessment of Effects



Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Direct landscape effects	2
2.1	Host VSAA's	2
3.	Indirect landscape effects	11
3.1	Surrounding VSAA's	11

Table 6F.1	Direct effects on the host VSAA's	2
Table 6F.2	Indirect effects on the surrounding VSAA's	11

1. Introduction

1.1.1 The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B**, identified those Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs) within the LVIA Study Area that should be carried through to the assessment of effects. On the basis of the Viewpoint Assessment and analysis of significance threshold set out in **Appendix 6K**, the landscape assessment has concentrated on those VSAAs entirely or partially within 10 km of the Proposed Development, which includes the following 15 VSAAs:

- CYNONVS001 - Tower Colliery;
- CYNONVS142 - Mynydd y Glyn;
- CYNONVS436 - Mynydd Gaer;
- CYNONVS473 - Mynydd Baedan;
- CYNONVS496 - Mynydd Maes-teg;
- CYNONVS580 - St Gwynno;
- CYNONVS622 - Mynydd Llangeinwyr;
- CYNONVS811 - Garth Hill;
- CYNONVS813 - Garw and Caerau Forest;
- NPTVS187 - Mynydd Dinas;
- NPTVS422 - Neath valley sides;
- NPTVS547 - Mynydd y Gelli;
- NPTVS624 - Carn Caca;
- NPTVS916 - Cwm Dyffryn; and
- NPTVS962 - Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan.

2. Direct landscape effects

2.1 Host VSAs

2.1.1 The Proposed Development coincides with six VSAs as follows:

- CYNONVS001 Tower Colliery;
- CYNONVS580 St Gwynno;
- CYNONVS811 Garth Hill;
- CYNONVS813 Garw and Caerau Forest;
- NPTVS547 Mynydd y Gelli; and
- NPTVS962 Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan.

2.1.2 The assessment of direct landscape effects on these host VSAs is set out in **Table 6F.1**.

Table 6F.1 Direct effects on the host VSAs

VSAA	Assessment
CYNONVS001 Tower Colliery	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Low value and of Medium-Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium-Low. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> The 22-month construction phase would result in direct landscape effects on part of the Site and its component landscape elements which coincide with this VSAA. This would be concentrated around a short (approximately 450 m) section of the access track to the Site, which would be routed along an existing section of forestry track which passes through the southernmost fringes this receptor unit to serve the extensive areas of coniferous forestry to the south. During this period, there would be vehicle movements associated with the Proposed Development along the access track, occurring within close proximity to the A4061, which is aligned along the eastern boundary of the VSAA and close to Zip World Tower, where high levels of movement are likely to occur. As a consequence, the presence of vehicles would not be uncharacteristic within this landscape and effects would be incremental through an intensification of vehicle movements throughout the construction phase. Overall, the magnitude of change on CYNONVS001 Tower Colliery would be Very Low and landscape effects would be Minor to Negligible and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> Reference to Figures 6.8c and 6.8d confirms that this VSAA lies outside of the blade tip ZTV and consequently there would be no views of the proposed turbines. Whilst the existing access track which serves the forestry would continue to be used by maintenance vehicles accessing the Site, this infrequent activity would not be distinguishable amongst other vehicle movements along the access track, and the magnitude of change is assessed as Zero.

VSAA	Assessment
	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> No operational effects would occur within this VSAA. As a consequence, the Proposed Development would make no contribution to any cumulative effects arising from multiple wind energy schemes. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> No operational effects would occur within this VSAA. As a consequence, the Proposed Development would make no contribution to any cumulative effects arising from multiple wind energy schemes.
CYNONVS580 St Gwynno	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium-Low. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> Approximately 1.8 km of the access track to the Site would be routed through the north-western edge of this extensive VSAA, with localised sections of the track also coinciding with its western fringes, adjacent to VSAA NPTVS962 Mynydd Nant y Bar / Mynydd Blaenafan. The 22-month construction phase would therefore result in direct landscape effects on this part of the VSAA and its component landscape elements, although the route comprises existing Forestry track and limited vegetation clearance is anticipated to accommodate sufficient overrun/over sail for turbine delivery. During this period, there would be vehicle movements associated with the Proposed Development which would be comparable to the periodic forestry operations which take place within the area. This is a VSAA which is described as being “<i>dominated by coniferous forest</i>” and having “<i>limited views out to upland areas</i>”, with forestry limiting the visual presence of construction activities occurring across the Main Site at a minimum distance of approximately 5.6 km. The presence of vehicles would not be uncharacteristic within this landscape and effects would be incremental through an increased frequency of vehicle movements throughout the construction phase. Overall, the magnitude of change on CYNONVS580 St Gwynno would be Very Low and landscape effects would be Minor to Negligible and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The ZTV (Figure 6.8d) indicates that the proposed turbines would be visible from across fragmented parts of the VSAA, where up to six turbines would potentially be visible from Mynydd Ystradffernol, Mynydd Tynewydd, Mynydd Blaenthondda and Mynydd Ty-isaf, although, in reality, the coniferous forestry within and surrounding these areas (not accounted for in the ZTV calculation) would restrict a proportion of these views. A proportion of the turbines within the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm are sited within this VSAA. Direct effects during the operational phase would be associated with the continued use of the existing access track by maintenance vehicles accessing the Site. However, this infrequent activity is unlikely to be distinguishable amongst other vehicle movements along the track for forestry and maintenance operations associated with the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm. The presence of Proposed Development at a minimum separation distance of approximately 5.6 km would slightly and incrementally detract from the “<i>Attractive views</i>” recorded for this landscape, which has a “<i>moderate</i>” scenic quality. The LANDMAP Survey records visual tranquillity as being predominantly category 7 (27.96%) and category 8 (57.41%) and where visible, the Proposed Development would slightly dilute these perceptual qualities.

VSAA	Assessment
	The magnitude of change as a result of the Proposed Development would be Low within localised parts of the VSAA where open and felled areas facilitate outward views, reducing to Very Low with increasing separation distance and Zero where no visual effects pathway exists (within areas outside of the ZTV and where forestry prohibits outward views). The resulting Moderate/Minor to Minor effect would be Not Significant with effects elsewhere being Minor to Negligible and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The turbines within the operational Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm which are located within this VSAA would have a partial characterising influence which is tempered by their scale and the simple forestry land cover which limits the availability of views (Medium-Low magnitude). Other operational and consented wind farms schemes within the Study Area would have limited to very limited to no influence on the character of this VSAA as a consequence of scale and separation distance, allied with the “<i>limited views out to upland areas</i>”. The additional effect would remain up to Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> Planning application and scoping schemes within the Study Area would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance and the limited availability of outward views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The Carreg Wen scoping scheme would be located within the part of the extensive VSAA to the south of Aberdare and would have a characterising influence given the scale of the turbines and open nature of a proportion of the landscape in this area (High-Medium magnitude). The additional effect would remain up to Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would increase to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the Carreg Wen scoping scheme and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse.
CYNONVS811 Garth Hill	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> The 22-month construction phase would result in direct landscape effects on part of the Site and its component landscape elements which coincide with this VSAA. This would be concentrated around seven of the eight turbines (T1-T4 and T6-T8), substation, short sections of grid connection, internal access tracks and the temporary construction compounds, all of which are sited within this receptor unit. During this period, there would be a progressive change to the landscape involving the removal of localised areas of grassland, new access track creation, movement of people and construction vehicles, plant and machinery, and localised construction of turbine foundations and crane pads. Cranage, turbine delivery and the gradual erection of the turbines would subsequently occur within this VSAA. This level of activity would be uncharacteristic within a landscape which is cited as having an “<i>Infrequent</i>” level of human access in the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and is described as having a “<i>sense of wildness</i>” and the magnitude of change would progress from Very Low at the start of construction to High within and around the Site boundary.

VSAA	Assessment
CYNONVS813 Garw and Caerau Forest	Overall, the landscape effects on CYNONVS811 Garth Hill VSAA would range from Minor (at the start of the construction phase) and increase to Major/Moderate and Significant during peak activity, due to the nature of construction activity (contrasting colours, movement, people). The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and adverse.
	<u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> Following completion of the construction activities, the construction compounds would be removed and the grassland reinstated although the access tracks would be retained to facilitate occasional access to the turbines and substation. The introduction of the turbines themselves would detract from the “<i>attractive upland views</i>” which are tempered by “<i>less attractive views over urban area</i>” with a resulting Moderate scenic quality of the VSAA, with the ZTV in Figure 6.8d indicating extensive theoretical visibility across this entire VSAA. Where visible, the Proposed Development would dilute perceptual qualities relating to tranquillity. Viewpoint 1 (Figure 6.15 Viewpoint 1: PRoW MAE/59/1 north side of Mynydd Pwll yr Iwrc) and Viewpoint 2 (Figure 6.16 Viewpoint 2: PRoW MAE/32/3 situated between the two sites) are located within the VSAA and demonstrate the landscape and visual role of the proposed turbines within this landscape. The magnitude of change would be High within the majority of this moderate sized but relatively narrow VSAA reducing to Low on the northern fringes where intervening landform and forestry restrict the availability of southerly views. Landscape effects would therefore be up to Major/Moderate and Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term, direct and adverse due primarily to the height and scale of the proposed turbines and less as a result of the associated infrastructure within the VSAA.
	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Llynfi Afan wind turbines, located to the north-east of the VSAA would have limited characterising influence on the scenic quality and tranquillity within the closet part of the VSAA due to intervening forestry (Low magnitude). The consented Foel Trawsant Wind Farm would also have a limited influence (Low magnitude). Other operational and consented wind energy schemes would have very limited to no characterising influence as a consequence of separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Major/Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application scheme at Mynydd Ty-talwyn would have limited influence on the character of this VSAA (Low magnitude) whilst other planning application and scoping schemes would have very limited to no influence (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Major/Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.
	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Medium-Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> Approximately 10.4 km of the access track to the Site would be routed through this large VSAA and the 22-month construction phase would therefore result in direct landscape effects on this part of the Site and its component landscape elements

VSAA	Assessment
	which coincide with this VSAA. The access route follows existing Forestry track and the tracks of the existing Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and limited vegetation clearance is anticipated to provide sufficient overrun/over sail for turbine delivery. During this period, there would be vehicle movements associated with the Proposed Development which would be comparable to the periodic forestry operations which take place within the area. Effects would be incremental through an increased frequency of vehicle movements throughout the construction phase, although occurring within a VSAA where the level of human access is described as “Rare”. Construction activities would also be concentrated around T5 which is located within this VSAA and would involve the removal of localised areas of grassland, the creation of a short section of new access track, movement of people and construction vehicles, plant and machinery, and localised construction of turbine foundations and crane pads. Craneage, turbine delivery and the gradual erection of the turbine (T5) would subsequently occur within this VSAA, whilst the erection of T6-T8 would also have an influence given the proximity of activities in the neighbouring CYNONVS811 Garth Hill to the west. The magnitude of change would be High-Medium within a small part of this VSAA around T5 reducing to Low within areas of landscape along the access track and across “<i>small areas of rough grazing/open land</i>” or felled areas, within which outward views are available. Landscape effects would therefore be up to Major/Moderate to Moderate and locally Significant but would more commonly be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant or less. The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The blade tip ZTV (Figure 6.8d) indicates that the proposed turbines would theoretically be visible from across the majority of this VSAA, although, in reality, the coniferous forestry within and surrounding these areas (not accounted for in the ZTV calculation) would restrict a proportion of these views. Three of the turbines within the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm are sited within this VSAA. Direct effects during the operational phase would be associated with the continued but occasional use of the existing access track by maintenance vehicles accessing the Site. The introduction of the turbines, including T5 within the VSAA and T1-T4 and T6-T8 in the neighbouring CYNONVS811 Garth Hill to the west, would occasionally detract from the “<i>attractive views out of this area</i>” where these occur, such as at Darren Fawr. Where visible, the proposed turbines would be seen above or in context with the simple forestry landcover, with the LANDMAP Survey noting that “<i>Views of coniferous monoculture within are generally unattractive</i>” although more commonly, the forestry would restrict outward views as recorded in the LANDMAP Survey (<i>Limited views due to density of planting</i>). Where visible, the Proposed Development would incrementally dilute perceptual qualities relating to tranquillity. The magnitude of change would be High-Medium within a small part of this VSAA close to T5 reducing to Low within localised “<i>small areas of rough grazing/open land</i>” or felled areas, within which outward views are available. Landscape effects would therefore be up to Major/Moderate to Moderate and locally Significant but would more commonly be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant or less. The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Llynfi Afan wind turbines, located within this VSAA would have characterising influence on the scenic quality and perceptual qualities of this VSAA (High-Medium magnitude). The proximity of the consented Upper Ogmere Wind Farm

VSAA	Assessment
	within CYNONVS622 Mynydd Llangeinwyr to the north-west of the VSAA may have a partial characterising influence (Medium magnitude) when experienced from within the limited open areas from which outward views are available. Other operational and consented wind energy schemes would have limited to very limited to no characterising influence as a consequence of their scale and/or separation distance (Low to Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would be locally Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> Planning application and scoping schemes within the Study Area would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain locally Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.
NPTVS547 Mynydd y Gelli	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of High value and of Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> Approximately 3.7 km of the access track to the Site would be routed through this small VSAA and the 22-month construction phase would therefore result in direct landscape effects on this part of the Site and its component landscape elements which coincide with this VSAA. The access route would follow existing tracks associated with the existing Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and limited vegetation clearance is anticipated to provide sufficient overrun/over sail for turbine delivery. Effects would therefore primarily arise as a consequence of vehicle movements throughout the construction phase, occurring within a VSAA where the level of human access is described as “<i>Infrequent</i>”. Ground and low-level construction activities concentrated around T1-T4 would have limited characterising influence due to separation distance, although craneage and the gradual erection of T1-T4 would have a partial influence but would be experienced in context with and often beyond the operational turbines within the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm. The magnitude of change would be Low within areas of landscape along the access track and Medium-Low across elevated areas towards the northern and southern edges within which outward views are available. Landscape effects would therefore be up to Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The blade tip ZTV in Figure 6.8d indicates that the proposed turbines would theoretically be visible from across a very small proportion of this VSAA, concentrated along the southern boundary at a minimum distance of 1.8 km and across the summit and upper south facing slopes of Coetgae Isaf at a minimum distance of 3 km. Nine of the turbines within the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm are sited within this VSAA. Direct effects during the operational phase would be associated with the continued but occasional use of the existing access track by maintenance vehicles accessing the Site. The introduction of the proposed turbines would occasionally detract from

VSAA	Assessment
	the “<i>attractive</i>” views and “<i>Moderate</i>” scenic quality which is recorded in the LANDMAP Survey for this landscape. Where visible, the proposed turbines would be seen in context with or beyond the existing Llynfi Afan turbines and experienced from within a landscape which features a “<i>simple pattern, with simple landscape features</i>” and “<i>almost uniform ground cover</i>” which reduces the degree of contrast. The Proposed Development may also and incrementally dilute perceptual qualities relating to tranquillity, remoteness and wildness which are recorded for this VSAA. The magnitude of change would be Medium-Low from within the very small parts of this VSAA which coincide with the ZTV to Zero within the remainder (majority) of the VSAA. Landscape effects would therefore be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant but more commonly would be None. The nature of these effects would be long-term, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Llynfi Afan wind turbines, located within this VSAA would have characterising influence on the scenic quality and perceptual qualities of this VSAA (High-Medium magnitude). The proximity of the consented Upper Ogmere Wind Farm just beyond the southern boundary of the VSAA may have a partial characterising influence (Medium magnitude), whilst other operational and consented wind energy schemes would have limited to very limited to no characterising influence as a consequence of their scale and/or separation distance (Low to Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and not the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> Planning application and scoping schemes within the Study Area would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and not the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.
NPTVS962 Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium-Low. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> The majority of the access track to the Site would be routed through this extensive VSAA and the 22-month construction phase would therefore result in direct landscape effects on this part of the Site and its component landscape elements which coincide with this VSAA. The access route would follow existing Forestry track, and limited vegetation clearance is anticipated to provide sufficient overrun/over sail for turbine delivery. During this period, there would be vehicle movements associated with the Proposed Development which would be comparable to the periodic forestry operations which take place within the area. Effects would therefore be incremental through an increased frequency of vehicle movements throughout the construction phase, although occurring within a VSAA where the level of human access is described as “<i>Infrequent</i>”. Elevated construction activities associated with the erection of the turbines to the south would have a limited influence on this VSAA where no attractive views are

VSAA	Assessment
	identified and outward views are limited within an area that “<i>is almost entirely covered with coniferous plantation</i>”. Any occasional presence of cranes and turbine erection to the south would occur in context or beyond the operational turbines within the Llynfi Afan and Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farms The magnitude of change would be Low within areas of landscape along the access track and across elevated and open areas within which outward views to the south are available. Landscape effects would therefore be up to Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The blade tip ZTV in Figure 6.8d indicates that the proposed turbines would be visible from across a moderate proportion of the southern part of the VSAA, at a minimum distance of 2.8 km. In reality, the coniferous forestry within and surrounding these areas (not accounted for in the ZTV calculation) would restrict a large proportion of these views. Turbines within the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm are also sited within this VSAA. Direct effects during the operational phase would be associated with the continued use of the existing access track by maintenance vehicles accessing the Site. However, this infrequent activity is unlikely to be distinguishable amongst other vehicle movements along the track for forestry and maintenance operations associated with the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm. The occasional presence of Proposed Development in context with or beyond the existing Llynfi Afan and Pen y Cymoedd turbines would slightly and incrementally detract from the “<i>moderate</i>” scenic quality. The LANDMAP Survey records visual tranquillity as being predominantly category 8 (78.04%) with the VSAA described as being “<i>remote</i>” and where visible, the Proposed Development would slightly and incrementally dilute these perceptual qualities. The magnitude of change as a result of the Proposed Development would be Low within localised parts of the VSAA where open and felled areas facilitate outward views, reducing to Very Low with increasing separation distance and Zero where no visual effects pathway exists (within areas outside of the ZTV and where forestry prohibits outward views). The resulting Moderate/Minor to Minor effect would be Not Significant, with effects elsewhere being Minor to Negligible and Not Significant and more commonly None. The nature of these effects would be long-term, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The turbines within the operational Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm which are located within this VSAA would have a partial characterising influence which is tempered by their scale and the simple forestry land cover which limits the availability of views (Medium-Low magnitude). Other operational and consented wind farms schemes within the Study Area including the closest operational Ffynnon Oer and Llynfi Afan Wind Farms would have limited to very limited to no influence on the character of this VSAA. The additional effect would remain up to Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> Planning application and scoping schemes within the Study Area would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain up to Moderate/Minor to Minor

VSAA	Assessment
	and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would also remain as Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse.

3. Indirect landscape effects

3.1 Surrounding VSAs

- 3.1.1 The effects on surrounding landscape would be limited to effects on the key visual or perceptual characteristics of these landscapes, resulting from views of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure where visible. The assessment considers the likely change to landscape character and as such it is different from the visual assessment of particular views, experienced by people.
- 3.1.2 The assessment of landscape effects on the surrounding VSAs which have been scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6F.2**.

Table 6F.1 Indirect effects on the surrounding VSAs

VSAA	Assessment
CYNONVS142 - Mynydd y Glyn	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises two discrete areas of upland, with Figure 6.8d indicating a moderate proportion of the smaller western most part of the VSAA as coinciding the blade tip ZTV at a distance of approximately 4.5 km. ZTV coverage also extends across the western edge of the larger sub-area, at a distance of approximately 8.7 km. Further areas of intervisibility occur to the east, at distances in excess of 13 km. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. Both attractive and detractive views out of this landscape are identified in the LANDMAP Survey, with scenic quality described as being High on account of “<i>some attractive views both in and out to uplands</i>”. The VSAA is noted (in the perceptual qualities heading of the LANDMAP Survey as being remote with visual tranquillity being recorded as predominantly category 7 (45.16%) and category 8 (44.08%). Where visible, the Proposed Development may slightly detract from the scenic quality and slightly dilute the perceptual quality relating to tranquillity. Effects on the key characteristics and features of this VSAA would however, not be significant and the Proposed Development would have an overall limited characterising influence on the VSAA. The magnitude of change would range from Low-Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The proximity of the operational Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension and Fforch Nest Wind Farms to the north of the VSAA and operational Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension Wind Farms to the south may have a partial characterising influence over the closest parts of this landscape unit (Medium magnitude). The VSAA would also host the consented Mynydd y Glyn wind farm which would have a characterising influence across part of this landscape unit (High-Medium). Other operational and consented schemes would have limited to very limited to no characterising influence due to their scale and/or separation distance. The additional effect would remain Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined

VSAA	Assessment
	effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and locally Significant as a consequence of the consented Mynydd y Glyn wind farm and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application schemes at Mynydd y Gaer and Llanwonno would be located in close proximity to the south and north of this VSAA respectively and may have a partial characterising influence (Medium magnitude). Other planning application and scoping schemes would have limited, very limited or no characterising influence as a consequence of separation distance (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would continue to be Major/Moderate to Moderate and locally Significant as a consequence of the consented Mynydd y Glyn wind farm and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse.
CYNONVS436 - Mynydd Gaer	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of High value and of Medium-Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises a single, extensive area of upland, with Figure 6.8d indicating ZTV coverage extending across a moderate proportion of the VSAA, concentrated across the northern edge, at a minimum separation distance of approximately 5.2 km. Fragmented potential visibility also occurs across the eastern half of the VSAA at distances in excess of 10 km. Viewpoint 16 (Figure 6.30 Viewpoint 16: Glamorgan Ridgeway Walk) is located within the VSAA, which is also host to the operational Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension Wind Farms with the LANDMAP Survey summary stating “<i>presence of wind farm, which is a dominant vertical element, together with pylons main visual detractor</i>”. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. Scenic quality is described as being High with “<i>good wide reaching views</i>”, although detractive views are also noted in the LANDMAP Survey Visual tranquillity being recorded as predominantly category 7 (28.69%) and category 8 (65.44%). Where visible and as illustrated by Viewpoint 16, the proposed turbines would have a presence alongside multiple wind farms schemes and whilst they would slightly and incrementally detract from the High scenic quality, they would not be incongruous, nor would they be the most prominent vertical structures in views. The magnitude of change would range from Low-Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Llynfi Afa, Pen-y-Cymoed schemes and consented Foel Trawsnant Upper Ogmre and Twyn Hywel Wind Farms would have very limited influence (Very Low magnitude) on the character of this VSAA. The operational Pant-y-wal, Pant-y-wal Extension and Fforch Nest schemes would have limited influence (Low magnitude) whilst the consented Mynydd y Glyn would have a partial influence (Medium magnitude). As cited in the LANDMAP Survey, the operational Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension Wind Farms which are located within this VSAA have a characterising influence across the central part this landscape unit (High-Medium magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Major/Moderate to

VSAA	Assessment
	Moderate and locally Significant as a consequence of the operational Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension Wind Farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application scheme at Mynydd y Gaer would be sited within this VSAA and would have a characterising influence within the western half of this landscape unit (High-Medium magnitude). The planning application scheme at Llanwonno and scoping scheme at Carreg Wen would have very limited influence due to separation distance (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension and planning application Mynydd y Gaer Wind Farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse.
CYNONVS473 - Mynydd Baedan	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of High value and of Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be High-Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises a single, extensive area of north-eastern facing hill slope, with Figure 6.8d indicating ZTV coverage extending across the majority of the VSAA, with the exception of the southern fringes, at a minimum separation distance of approximately 1.5 km. Viewpoint 4 (Figure 6.18 Viewpoint 4: Tudor Estate, Caerau) and Viewpoint 8 (Figure 6.22 Viewpoint 8: Heol Cynan, Llangynwy) are located on the eastern boundary of the VSAA, whilst Viewpoint 12 (Figure 6.26 Viewpoint 12: Cistercian Way (Wales) and Bridleway LDM/17/1) is located within the VSAA, towards its western fringes. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. Scenic quality is described as being High with “<i>attractive views within and out to coast and uplands</i>”, with the summary also recording a “<i>strong upland character reinforced by northeasterly views of brecon beacons</i>”. Detractive views to urban areas are also cited in the LANDMAP Survey. As illustrated by Viewpoints 4 and 8 from the closest edges of this VSAA, the scale of the proposed turbines may contrast with the smaller scale field patterns and mosaic of elements where they occur within the VSAA, although the majority of the landscape features rough grazing within a larger scale field pattern, which is less likely to contrast with or be overwhelmed by the scale of the proposed turbines. The turbines would also incrementally detract from the High scenic quality alongside the operational Llynfi Afan turbines, although these operational turbines appear smaller in scale and therefore have less of a characterising influence. Visual tranquillity being recorded as predominantly category 7 (36.79%) and category 8 (55.39%) and where visible, the Proposed Development would dilute this perceptual quality. The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero and the level of effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The consented Foel Trawsant wind farm would have a partial influence on the scenic quality and perceptual qualities of this VSAA given its proximity just beyond the north-western boundary of this VSAA (Medium magnitude), whilst the operational Llynfi Afan would have a limited characterising influence (Low magnitude). Other

VSAA	Assessment
	operational and consented schemes within the Study Area including the existing Pen-y-Cymoedd, Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension and consented Upper Ogmere Wind Farm would have very limited influence due to their scale and/or increasing separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application scheme at Mynydd y Gaer would have a limited influence on this VSAA (Low-Very Low magnitude) whilst the Mynydd Ty-talwyn planning application would be located within the southernmost part of this VSAA and would have a characterising influence (High-Medium magnitude). Other planning application and scoping schemes would have very limited to no influence due to separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant whilst the combined effect would increase to Major to Major/Moderate and Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and indirect and adverse.
CYNONVS496 - Mynydd Maes-teg	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of High value and of Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises a single area of upland, with Figure 6.8d indicating a moderate proportion of the VSAA, concentrated along the western half, as coinciding the blade tip ZTV at a distance of approximately 5.1 km. The VSAA is host to the operational Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension and Fforch Nest wind farms with operational turbines present across all but the northern top of this moderately sized VSAA. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. The LANDMAP Survey (undertaken in 2012) describes “<i>Attractive upland views within and out over Ogmere Vale and to other upland areas</i>”, with scenic quality identified as being High noting “<i>windfarm visible on Mynydd Maendy to south from certain points is quite distant</i>”. Visual tranquillity is recorded as predominantly category 7 (31.01%) and category 8 (52.36 %). Where visible, the Proposed Development may slightly and incrementally detract further from the scenic quality and slightly dilute the perceptual quality relating to tranquillity. The large scale and simple nature of the upland landscape which is host to existing wind farms means that effects on the key characteristics and features of this VSAA would not be significant and the Proposed Development would have an overall limited characterising influence on the VSAA. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension and Fforch Nest wind farms, which extend across the majority of this VSAA have a characterising influence on this landscape (High magnitude). Where visible, other operational and consented wind energy schemes within the Study Area would have a limited (Low magnitude in relation to the consented Upper Ogmere and Mynydd y Glyn wind farms) to very limited or no influence on the character of this VSAA (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Major/Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the

VSAA	Assessment
	operational Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension and Fforch Nest Wind Farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application scheme at Mynydd y Gaer would have a limited characterising role upon this VSAA (Low magnitude), whilst other planning application and scoping schemes would have a very limited to no characterising influence due to separation distance. The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would also remain as Major/Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension and Fforch Nest Wind Farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
CYNONVS622 - Mynydd Llangeinwyr	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of High value and of Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be High-Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises a single, large area of upland, with Figure 6.8d indicating ZTV coverage extending across a large proportion of the VSAA, concentrated across the ridgeline and west facing slopes at a minimum separation distance of approximately 1.7 km. The eastern fringes and north-eastern spur lie outside of the ZTV. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. Scenic quality is described as being High with “<i>attractive accessible views, some extensive and long range to brecon beacons</i>”, although the LANDMAP Survey also describes “<i>visual clutter of telecoms mast a detractor</i>”, with “<i>incongruous vertical elements</i>” being listed as a key element that should be changed under the Recommendations heading. As shown in the visualisations for Viewpoint 9 (Figure 6.23 Viewpoint 9: Pen-y-Foel Hill Summit), located just beyond the southern boundary of this VSAA and Viewpoint 11 (Figure 6.25 Viewpoint 11: Mynydd Llangeinwyr Summit) which is located within the VSAA, the proposed turbines would become prominent vertical components of westerly views and would incrementally detract from the High scenic quality in conjunction with the transmitted masts and operational Llynfi Afan turbines. They would not however, interrupt views towards the Brecon Beacons, which are to the north and would be viewed as part of a large-scale and exposed landscape which features a simple landcover comprising grassland and coniferous forestry. Visual tranquillity being recorded as predominantly category 8 (71.33%) and category 9 (24.82%) and where visible, the Proposed Development would incrementally dilute this perceptual quality. The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero, and the level of effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Llynfi Afan wind turbines, located just beyond the northern boundary of the VSAA have partial characterising influence on the scenic quality and tranquillity within the closet part of the VSAA (Medium magnitude), which would also host the consented Upper Ogmores Wind Farm (High-Medium magnitude). Other operational schemes (Newton Down, Parc Stormy, Mynydd Brombil, Mynydd y Gwair, Ffynnon Oer, Mynydd y Betws, Pen-y-Cymoed, Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension) would have very limited influence due to scale, separation distance or their position below the horizon, whilst the operational Pant-y-wal, Pant-y-wal Extension and Fforch Nest would have limited influence (Low magnitude). The

VSAA	Assessment
	consented Foel Trawsnant, Twyn Hywel and Mynydd y Glyn wind energy schemes would similarly have very limited characterising influence as a consequence of separation distance (Low-Very Low magnitude). The additional effect would remain Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant whilst the combined effect would become Major to Major/Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the VSAA hosting the Upper Ogmere Wind Farm. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application schemes at Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Mynydd y Gaer would have limited influence on the character of this VSAA (Low magnitude) whilst other planning application and scoping schemes would have very limited to no influence (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant, and the combined effect would also remain as Major to Major/Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the consented Upper Ogmere Wind Farm. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and direct and adverse.
NPTVS187 - Mynydd Dinas	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of High value and of Medium-Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises two discrete areas of scarp slopes. The northern sub-area lies outside of the ZTV as shown in Figure 6.8d, whilst theoretical visibility extends across a moderate proportion of the southern sub-area at a minimum distance of approximately 9 km. In reality, the deciduous woodland which covers the northernmost part of this VSAA sub-area would restrict a proportion of the outward views to the east. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. The introduction of Proposed Development would slightly detract from the attractive views out of this landscape, with scenic quality described as being Moderate. Detractive views out of the VSAA are also recorded in the LANDMAP Survey with “<i>localised visually intrusive development</i>” being noted under Question 74: Integrity. The VSAA is not noted (in the perceptual qualities heading of the LANDMAP Survey) as possessing strong perceptions of remoteness and tranquillity, with visual tranquillity being recorded as predominantly category 7 (66.81%), and where visible, the Proposed Development may contribute to a slight dilution of this perceptual quality. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Mynydd Brombil and consented Foel Trawsnant wind energy schemes would have limited influence on this VSAA (Low magnitude), whilst other operational and consented schemes within the Study Area would have very limited influence due to their scale and/or increasing separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

VSAA	Assessment
NPTVS422 - Neath valley sides	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> Planning application and scoping schemes within the Study Area, including the closest Mynydd Ty-talwyn application scheme would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises three discrete areas of valley hillside, the largest of which lies to the south of the River Neath and within 10 km of the proposed turbines. Two smaller sub-areas lie to the north of the River Neath, separated by the Dulais Valley and A4109. The largest sub-area lies outside of the ZTV coverage (Figure 6.8d), with partial to complete ZTV coverage extending across the sub-areas to the north. The closest area of intervisibility occurring at a distance of approximately 10.8 km. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. The introduction of Proposed Development would slightly detract from the attractive views out of this landscape, whilst detractive views out of the VSAA are also recorded, but not detailed, in the LANDMAP Survey. The separation distance is such that the “<i>pastoral and deciduous mosaic</i>” which contributes to the “<i>pleasant patterns and contains and produces interesting landscape features</i>” would not be overwhelmed by the scale of the turbines and Gnoll Park, which is described as being a “<i>fine landscape of high quality</i>” lies outside of the ZTV. The VSAA is not noted (in the perceptual qualities heading of the LANDMAP Survey) as possessing strong perceptions of remoteness and tranquillity, with visual tranquillity being recorded as predominantly category 7 (59.02%) and category 8 (29.03%), and where visible, the Proposed Development may contribute to a slight dilution of this perceptual quality, with “<i>seeing large non-natural infrastructure</i>” one of six recognised detractors from tranquillity¹. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Pen-Y-Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer and Measgwyn wind farm schemes together with the consented Mynydd Fforch Dwm would have limited influence on this VSAA (Low magnitude). Other operational and consented wind energy schemes within the Study Area would have very limited influence due to their scale and/or increasing separation distance (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

¹ Green C, Manson D, Chamberlain K 2022. Tranquillity and Place. NRW Report No: 569. (Online). Available at: https://www.lucmaps.co.uk/NRW_TranquillityPlace/Tranquillity%20and%20Place%20Final%20Report.pdf

VSAA	Assessment
NPTVS624 - Carn Caca	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application scheme at Mynydd Ty-talwyn and the scoping scheme at Upper Lliw would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance (Very Low magnitude) whilst the closer scoping scheme at Hirfynydd would have limited influence (Low magnitude). Other planning application and scoping schemes would have no characterising influence. The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would remain as Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium-Low. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises two discrete areas of upland, with Figure 6.8d indicating a small, localised area across the summit of Mynydd Fforch-dwm within the smaller of the two sub-areas, as coinciding the blade tip ZTV at a distance of approximately 6.5 km. ZTV coverage also extends across the southern spur of the larger sub-area, which is host to the Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm, and where all eight of the proposed turbines would potentially be visible at a minimum distance of approximately 5.1 km. A smaller area on the north-western tip also lies within the ZTV although, in reality, the surrounding coniferous forestry would restrict outward views to the south-east. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. No attractive views out of this landscape are identified in the LANDMAP Survey, with scenic quality described as being Moderate and with detractive views being recorded as a consequence of the “<i>Windfarm at close quarters</i>”, which is also recorded as reducing scenic quality and the “<i>unspoilt</i>” character of this landscape. The VSAA is noted (in the perceptual qualities heading of the LANDMAP Survey as being remote with visual tranquillity being recorded as predominantly category 8 (82.98 %). Where visible, the Proposed Development may slightly and incrementally detract from the moderate scenic quality and slightly dilute the perceptual quality relating to tranquillity. The large scale and simple nature of the upland moorland landscape which is host to an existing wind farm means that effects on the key characteristics and features of this VSAA would not be significant and the Proposed Development would have an overall limited characterising influence on the VSAA. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor to Negligible and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse.
	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> As cited in the LANDMAP Survey, the operational Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm has a characterising role being located within this VSAA (High-Medium magnitude), whilst the closest Pen-y-Cymoedd operational turbines, which are sited between the two VSAA sub-areas and also to the east of the larger sub-area, would have a partial characterising influence (Medium magnitude). The smaller of the two sub-areas would also host the consented Mynydd Fforch Dwm Wind Farm (High-Medium magnitude). Other operational and consented wind energy schemes within the Study Area would have a limited (the consented Foel Trawsnant with a Low magnitude of change), to very limited or no influence on the character of this VSAA (Very Low magnitude to Zero for the remaining schemes). The additional effect would remain Minor to Negligible and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would be Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational

VSAA	Assessment
	Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm and consented Mynydd Fforch Dwm wind farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application scheme at Mynydd Ty-talwyn and the scoping scheme at Upper Lliw would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance (Very Low magnitude) whilst the closer scoping scheme at Hirfynydd would have limited influence (Low magnitude). Other planning application and scoping schemes would have no characterising influence. The additional effect would remain Minor to Negligible and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would also remain as Moderate/Major to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the operational Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm and consented Mynydd Fforch Dwm wind farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
NPTVS916 - Cwm Dyffryn	As set out in Table 6C.8 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of High value and of Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be High-Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> This VSAA comprises a single area of upland valley, with Figure 6.8d indicating fragmented potential visibility of up to four turbines across a moderate proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of approximately 5 km. There would be no direct (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. Scenic quality is described in the LANDMAP Survey as being High as a consequence of the “<i>pleasing pattern and significant landscape features</i>”, with both attractive and detractive views being recorded (but not described). Where visible, the Proposed Development may partially detract from this high scenic quality, with the VSAA being described as being “<i>generally unspoilt by large scale visually intrusive development</i>”. Whilst the VSAA is not noted (in the perceptual qualities heading of the LANDMAP Survey) as possessing strong perceptions of remoteness and tranquillity, visual tranquillity is recorded as predominantly category 8 (71.93%), and where visible, the Proposed Development may contribute to a slight dilution of this perceptual quality. The separation distance means that the scale of the turbines would not significantly overwhelm the small scale of the valley landform or the mosaic of landcover which is present across the valley sides and bottom. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm would have partial influence across the south-western tip of this VSAA given its proximity (Medium magnitude), whilst the consented Foel Trawsant turbines would have limited influence (Low magnitude). Other operational and consented wind energy schemes within the Study Area would have very limited influence due to their scale and/or increasing separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect may increase locally and across a small proportion of the VSAA to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the Mynydd Brombil scheme and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

VSAA	Assessment
	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> Planning application and scoping schemes within the Study Area would have very limited characterising influence on this VSAA due to separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would also remain as Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the Mynydd Brombil scheme and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.