



Pennant Walters

GLANLLYNFI GARTH WIND FARM

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 6G - LANDMAP Historic Landscape
Aspect Areas: Assessment of Effects



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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B** identified 28 Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (GLAAs) that should be carried through to the assessment of effects as follows:

- CYNONHL114 - H07 Bryngarw;
- CYNONHL173 - H17 Bridgend Historic Core;
- CYNONHL183 - Tower Colliery;
- CYNONHL215 - H05 Unenclosed Uplands;
- CYNONHL224 - H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest;
- CYNONHL227 - H01 Llangynwyd;
- CYNONHL242 - H02 Maesteg;
- CYNONHL342 - H21 Cwrt Colman;
- CYNONHL346 - H06 Cwm Garw;
- CYNONHL581 - H03 Llynfi Valley Agricultural;
- CYNONHL582 - H09 Ogmore Valley Agricultural 1;
- CYNONHL645 - H12 Mynydd y Gaer and Allt y Rhiw;
- CYNONHL687 - Rhondda Uplands;
- CYNONHL805 - Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side;
- CYNONHL817 - H13 St Brides Minor to Coychurch 1;
- CYNONHL888 - Mynyddau Hugh a Maendy;
- CYNONHL891 - H20 Glanrhyd Hospital;
- CYNONHL924 - H14 Cefn Hirgoed and Hirwaun Common;
- CYNONHL973 - H19 Cornelly to Laleston 1;
- CYNONHL988 - H31 Ogmore Valley Agricultural 2;
- CYNONHL989 - H32 St Brides Minor to Coychurch 2;
- NPTHL021 - Margam Mountain;
- NPTHL026 - Afan Wallia;
- NPTHL032 - Mynydd y Gaer;
- NPTHL045 - Upper Afan Valley;
- NPTHL055 - Cefn Morfud;
- NPTHL060 - Mynydd Penhydd and Foel Trawsnant; and
- NPTHL070 - Mynyddau Emroch and Bychan.

- 1.1.2 The landscape sensitivity of the HLAAAs to the Proposed Development is presented in **Appendix 6C** and has been derived in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A**.
- 1.1.3 The assessment of direct landscape effects on these HLAAAs is set out in **Table 6G.1** in **Section 2** of this Appendix. The geographical extent and location of the GLAAAs in relation to the Proposed Development is illustrated in **Figure 6.8e: LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip** and **Figure 6.8f: Detailed LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip**.

2. Direct landscape effects

2.1 Host HLAAAs

2.1.1 The Proposed Development coincides with seven HLAAAs as follows:

- CYNONHL183 - Tower Colliery;
- CYNONHL215 - H05 Unenclosed Uplands;
- CYNONHL224 - H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest;
- CYNONHL581 - H03 Llynfi Valley Agricultural;
- CYNONHL687 - Rhondda Uplands;
- CYNONHL805 - Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side; and
- NPThL026 - Afan Wallia.

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

Table 6G.1 Direct effects on the host HLAAAs

HLAA	Assessment
CYNONHL183 Tower Colliery	As set out in Table 6C.9 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 22-month construction phase would result in direct landscape effects on part of the Site and its component landscape elements which coincide with this HLAA. This would be concentrated around a short 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 HLAA, where high levels of movement are likely to occur. The importance of this landscape is primarily “<i>due to the survival of substantial and historically important remains of 19th - 20th century activity at the former Tower No.4 Colliery</i>” with the LANDMAP Survey noting that “<i>extensive modern opencast mining and forestry plantation has largely obliterated earlier patterns of settlement</i>”. 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 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 6.8e and 6.8f confirms that this HLAA 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

HLAA	Assessment
	maintenance vehicles accessing the Site, this infrequent activity would be indistinguishable amongst other vehicle movements along the access track, and the magnitude of change is assessed as Zero. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> No operational effects would occur within this HLAA. 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 HLAA. As a consequence, the Proposed Development would make no contribution to any cumulative effects arising from multiple wind energy schemes.
CYNONHL215 H05 Unenclosed Uplands	As set out in Table 6C.9 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> The northern boundary of this HLAA lies adjacent to but outside of the Site Boundary. As a consequence, there would be no direct landscape (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. From the closest, northern fringes of the HLAA, the presence of vehicles travelling along the access road to the Site would have a limited effect on the attributes for which this landscape is valued, with the movement of vehicles viewed in conjunction with the movement of the operational Llynfi Afan turbines which are sited close to the access route. From elsewhere within the HLAA, the periodic deployment of cranes during the erection of the proposed turbines would be apparent above the western horizon and would represent a large-scale but incremental man-made visual influence, with the LANDMAP Survey recording <i>“In the early 21st century a wind farm has been constructed at Fforch Nest, on the eastern side of Mynydd yr Aber”</i> as part of the Summary Description/Key Patterns and Elements. The presence of crane activity and gradual erection of the proposed turbines would indirectly detract from the appreciation of the scheduled monuments which are present across the summit of Mynydd Llangeinwyr but would not alter the dominant landscape character of this area which is <i>“characterised by extensive, unenclosed upland moor”</i> which has <i>“remained largely intact”</i>. The magnitude of change would range from Low from within the western half of the HLAA to Zero. The level of effect would therefore be up to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be short-term, indirect and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The ZTV in Figure 6.8f demonstrates that the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of this HLAA, concentrated across the ridgeline and west facing slopes at a minimum separation distance of approximately 1.7 km. There would be no direct effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement above the horizon to the west would represent an incremental man-made vertical influence on the HLAA, with the LANDMAP Survey recording the presence of the Fforch Nest Wind Farm to the east and any characterising influence being extended through the presence of the closer operational Llynfi Afan Wind Farm to the west, as shown in the visualisations for Viewpoint 9 (Figure 6.23 Viewpoint 9: Pen-y-Foel Hill Summit)

HLAA	Assessment
	and Viewpoint 11 (Figure 6.25 Viewpoint 11: Mynydd Llangeinwyr Summit) which are located within the HLAA. The Proposed Development would be of increased height in comparison to the two closest operational schemes and would indirectly detract from the appreciation of the <i>“Bronze Age funerary activity has been identified across this landscape, represented by isolated round cairns”</i>, with two of these features (the Round Barrow on the Werfa and Carn y Hyrddod & Neighbouring Cairn Scheduled Monuments) coinciding with the ZTV, whilst those located on the east facing slopes lie outside of the ZTV. The Proposed Development would not however, alter the intactness of the dominant landscape character of this area which is <i>“characterised by extensive, unenclosed upland moor”</i>. The magnitude of change would range from Low from within the western half of the HLAA to Zero for those areas which lie outside of the ZTV. The level of effect would therefore be up 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 Llynfi Afan wind turbines, located just beyond the northern boundary of the HLAA would have a limited characterising influence on the appreciation of the key elements and patterns for which this landscape is valued due to their scale and the unenclosed upland qualities which define this HLAA which are of lower susceptibility to wind energy development (Low-Very Low 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, Mynydd Portref Extension, Pant-y-wal, Pant-y-wal Extension and Fforch Nest) would have limited to very limited influence due to scale, separation distance or their position below the horizon (Low-Very Low or Very Low magnitude). The consented Foel Trawnant, Twyn Hywel and Mynydd y Glyn wind energy schemes would similarly have very limited characterising influence as a consequence of separation distance (Very Low magnitude). This HLAA would however host the consented Upper Ogmere Wind Farm, which may partially detract from and contrast with the <i>“evidence of prehistoric (specifically Bronze Age) funerary activity”</i> within the northern most part of the HLAA but its scale would not alter the dominant landscape character of this area which is <i>“characterised by extensive, unenclosed upland moor”</i> (Medium-Low magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effects would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant as a consequence of the HLAA 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 appreciation of the key elements and patterns for which this landscape is valued (Low-Very 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 Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effects would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant as a consequence consented Upper Ogmere Wind Farm. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and direct and adverse.
CYNONHL224 H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest	As set out in Table 6C.9 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.

Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase

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 HLAA. This would be concentrated around six of the eight turbines (T1-T4 and T5-T6), substations, a short section 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 involving the 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 HLAA, which is described as being *“largely dominated by modern forestry plantation which has obscured much of the earlier, pre-1940s landscape of unenclosed upland moor”* and which *“has lost a significant degree of coherence due to modern afforestation”*. The HLAA derives its high value from the *“tracts of unenclosed moor survive towards the northernmost end of the aspect area, especially Mynydd Caerau, where there is a significant concentration of intact cairn sites of probable early Bronze Age date”* and whilst not directly affected by the Proposed Development, the presence of cranes at a minimum distance of approximately 2 km would incrementally detract from their appreciation. Two other cairns located beyond this cluster are within areas of forestry which would restrict intervisibility between these valued features and the construction activities.

The magnitude of change would range from Medium-Low from within the western half of the HLAA to Zero for those areas which lie outside of the ZTV. The level of effect would therefore be up to Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse.

Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase

The ZTV in **Figure 6.8f** demonstrates that the proposed turbines would be visible from within the majority of this HLAA, although in reality, the coniferous forestry which extends across much of the HLAA (not accounted for in the ZTV calculation) would restrict intervisibility with the proposed turbines from within a large proportion of this landscape unit. The exceptions relate to the remnant areas of unenclosed upland moor across Mynydd Caerau and landscape to the south, which hosts a number of the operational Llynfi Afan wind turbines, as well as the open landscape around T1-T4 and to the north, west and south of T5 and T6. From across Mynydd Caerau, the proposed turbines would incrementally detract from the appreciation of the cairns at a minimum separation distance of approximately 2 km from the closest turbine but would be perceived beyond the Llynfi Afan wind turbines and the presence of the proposed turbines would not alter the integrity of the modern forestry plantation which forms the dominant landscape character of this HLAA.

The magnitude of change would range from Medium-Low from within the remnant areas of unenclosed upland moor to Zero for those areas which lie outside of the ZTV or where forestry precludes outward views. The level of effect would therefore be up to Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse.

Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development

The operational Llynfi Afan wind turbines, located within the northernmost part of this HLAA would have some partial influence on the valued attributes across Mynydd Caerau (Medium-Low magnitude). Other operational and consented wind energy schemes would have limited to very limited to no characterising influence as a consequence of separation distance (Low to Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not 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.

HLAA	Assessment
	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The planning application and scoping schemes would have very limited influence on the appreciation of the key elements and patterns for which this landscape is valued (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not 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.
CYNONHL581 H03 Llynfi Valley Agricultural	As set out in Table 6C.9 of Appendix 6C, this VSAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of High-Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be High-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 HLAA. This would be concentrated around two of the eight turbines (T7 and T8), where there would be 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 turbines. The scale of this would contrast with <i>“dominant landscape pattern, characterised by a mixed fieldscape of small irregular field enclosures”</i> which is recognised as being <i>“largely well-preserved”</i> and <i>“is well established and visually coherent”</i>. Whilst construction activities would be concentrated across <i>“more regular enclosures from open moorland on the periphery of the area”</i> and across CYNONHL224 H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest to the east, the direct effects would nevertheless give rise to up to a Medium-Low magnitude of change from within the closest areas of the HLAA to the proposed turbines. The level of effect would therefore be up to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant closest to the proposed turbines, to Moderate and Not Significant with increasing separation distance to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct and adverse <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The ZTV in Figure 6.8f demonstrates that the proposed turbines would be visible from within the majority of this HLAA, with Viewpoint 1 (Figure 6.15 Viewpoint 1: PRow MAE/59/1 north side of Mynydd Pwll yr Iwrch), Viewpoint 2 (Figure 6.16 Viewpoint 2: PRow MAE/32/3 situated between the two sites) and Viewpoint 10 (Figure 6.24 Viewpoint 10: Y Wern, Betw) located within this HLAA. The scale of the proposed turbines located within (T7 and T8) and in close to proximity to the east of the HLAA would contrast with the smaller scale irregular field patterns which dominate this area and although there would be no physical alteration of these patterns, the presence of the proposed turbines may interrupt the visual coherence of these key patterns within the closest areas of landscape. The magnitude of change would range from Medium-Low for those areas closest to the proposed turbine to Low and Zero within the small areas of landscape at the southern edge of the HLAA which lie outside of the ZTV. The level of effect would therefore be up to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct and indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> Operational and consented wind farms within the Study Area including Llynfi Afan Pant-y-wal, Pant-y-wal Extension, Fforch Nest, Taff Ely, Foel Trawsant, Mynydd Y Glyn and Twyn Hywel would have limited influence on the valued attributes of this

HLAA	Assessment
	landscape (Low-Very Low to Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Major/Moderate to 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 schemes at Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Mynydd y Gaer would have a limited influence on the key elements and patterns within this HLAA (Low magnitude), whilst other planning application and scoping schemes would have very limited to no influence due to separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant as a consequence of the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.
CYNONHL687 Rhondda Uplands	As set out in Table 6C.9 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> 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 HLAA. This would be concentrated around a relatively short section of the access track to the Site, which would be routed along an existing section of forestry track which passes through the northern fringes this receptor unit (to the north of Llyn Fawr) 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, although this would not be incongruous within a landscape where similar activity associated with forestry operations occur. Elevated crane activity would have a presence from within localised areas of this HLAA, typically at distances in excess of 10 km or across areas of forestry which would preclude outward views. From within 10 km of the proposed turbines, ZTV coverage extends across the western slopes of Mynydd Ton, which is largely forested and from across the open upland at Mynydd Pen-y-graig and Mynydd Gilfach at a distance of approximately 9 km. The vertical presence of the crane activity would be incremental to others which occur in closer proximity including <i>“Large windfarms have been constructed within this area, including that above the Rhigos at the northern end of the aspect, Mynydd Maerdy to the east of the Rhondda Fawr and that at Fforch Nest, above the Ogwr to the south”</i>. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low from within areas on the northern fringes close to the access route and from areas of open upland at Mynydd Pen-y-graig and Mynydd Gilfach to Zero for those areas which lie outside of the ZTV, or which coincide with the forestry. The level of effect would therefore be up to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be short-term, direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The ZTV in Figure 6.8f demonstrates that the proposed turbines would be visible from within a limited proportion of this HLAA, commonly occurring at distances in excess of 10 km and across areas of coniferous forestry (not accounted for in the ZTV calculation) would restrict intervisibility with the proposed turbines from within the majority of this landscape unit. The value assigned to this HLAA is derived from it representing <i>“a remarkably well preserved multi-period upland landscape, containing evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic era, including sites of national importance such as the extensive settlement site of Hen Dre'r Mynydd, the</i>

HLAA	Assessment
	<i>largest undefended Iron Age settlement in SE Wales.</i>" This valued asset, and many others within the HLAA, lie outside of the blade tip ZTV. ZTV coverage within 10 km extends across the western slopes of Mynydd Ton, which is largely forested and from across the open upland at Mynydd Pen-y-graig and Mynydd Gilfach at a distance of approximately 9 km. From within these areas, the proposed turbines would have a presence in context with and often beyond the operational Fforch Nest, Pant-Y-Wal and Pant-Y-Wal Extension wind farms which are sited within and to the west of this HLAA. With respect to the appreciation of the key elements and patterns for which this landscape is valued, the magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero for those areas which lie outside of the ZTV or where forestry precludes outward views. The level of effect would therefore be up 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 Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Bwlfa, Maerdy, Ferndale and Fforch Nest wind farms along with the consented Abergorki turbines are located within this HLAA and have a partial influence as recognised in the LANDMAP Survey (Medium-Low magnitude). The operational Pant-Y-Wal and Pant-Y-Wal Extension wind farms also have a partial influence given their proximity adjacent to the HLAA at Mynydd Pen-y-graig and Mynydd Gilfach (Medium-Low magnitude). 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 Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effects would become Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant as a consequence of the operational turbines within and adjacent to the HLAA. 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> A turbines within the scoping scheme at Carreg Wen would also be sited within his HLAA to the east of Maerdy and would have a partial influence on this landscape (Medium-Low magnitude) whilst other planning application and scoping schemes would have a very limited influence. The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effects would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant as a consequence of the operational Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Bwlfa, Maerdy, Ferndale, Fforch Nest, Pant-Y-Wal and Pant-Y-Wal Extension wind farms, consented Abergorki turbines and the scoping scheme at Carreg Wen.
CYNONHL805 Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side	As set out in Table 6C.9 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 Construction Phase</u> The western most edge of this HLAA lies adjacent to but outside of the Site Boundary. As a consequence, there would be no direct landscape (physical) effects upon any of the attributes for which this landscape is valued. From the closest, western fringes of the HLAA, the presence of vehicles travelling along the access road to the Site would have a limited effect on the attributes for which this landscape is valued, with the movement of vehicles representing an intensification of an activity which occurs under baseline conditions as part of forestry operations. From elsewhere within the HLAA, the periodic deployment of cranes during the construction phase is unlikely to be readily perceived, with the blade tip

HLAA	Assessment
	ZTV in Figure 6.8f indicating an almost entire absence of theoretical visibility, which is compounded by the forestry which occurs within the minimal area of ZTV coverage which occurs and which would preclude outward views. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low from within the western fringes of the HLAA to Zero. The level of effect would therefore be up to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be short-term, indirect and neutral. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> The ZTV in Figure 6.8f demonstrates that the proposed turbines would be visible from within a very limited proportion of this HLAA on its western edge, although, in reality, the coniferous forestry which extends across this area of the HLAA (not accounted for in the ZTV calculation) would restrict intervisibility with the proposed turbines from this small part of the landscape. The magnitude of change is assessed as being Zero and effects would be None. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> No operational effects would occur within this HLAA. 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 HLAA. As a consequence, the Proposed Development would make no contribution to any cumulative effects arising from multiple wind energy schemes.
NPThL026 Afan Wallia	As set out in Table 6C.9 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> The majority of the access track to the Site would be routed through this extensive HLAA 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 landscape unit. The access route would follow existing tracks associated with forestry and the existing Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and the movement of construction vehicles through this HLAA would have limited influence on the attributes for which this landscape is valued. The HLAA derives its high value from the “<i>exceptionally rich multi-period landscape with evidence of a remarkable continuity of human activity and adaptation of the landscape from the Mesolithic period to the present day, although modern forestry plantation has slightly diminished the coherence of what was formerly a landscape of predominantly unenclosed upland moor</i>”. This is manifested through the Scheduled Monuments which are present throughout this HLAA although these are either located outside of the blade tip ZTV or within areas of forestry, and as a consequence, elevated crane activity would have limited influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero and the level of effect would therefore be up to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u>

HLAA	Assessment
	The ZTV in Figure 6.8f demonstrates that the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of this HLAA, although, in reality, the coniferous forestry which extends across much of the HLAA (not accounted for in the ZTV calculation) would restrict intervisibility with the proposed turbines from within a large proportion of this landscape unit. The exceptions relate to the <i>“isolated pockets of improved pasture; one such island can be found on Mynydd Fforch-dwm”</i> and the <i>“open areas, such as Tarren Cefn-mawr, Moel yr Hyrddod and Twyn y Lluest”</i>. As evidenced in the ZTV, these areas typically lie outside of the ZTV although where visible, the proposed turbines would incrementally influence the HLAA within which <i>“Several large wind farm developments have also taken place in the early 21st century, generally within the forest boundary”</i>. The magnitude of change would range from Low from within the closest open areas to Zero for those areas which lie outside of the ZTV or where forestry precludes outward views. The level of effect would therefore be up 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 Pen-y-Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer and part of the Llynfi Afan wind farms together with the consented Mynydd Fforch Dwm Wind Farm are located within this HLAA and would have a partial influence on the valued attributes of this landscape (Medium-Low magnitude). Other operational and consented wind energy schemes would have limited to very limited to no influence on the key elements and patterns for which this landscape is valued due to their scale and/or separation distance (Low to Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effects would become Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant as a consequence of the operational Pen-y-Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer and Llynfi Afan Wind Farms and the consented Mynydd Fforch Dwm scheme. 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 and scoping schemes within the Study Area including the closest Hirfynydd scoping scheme to the north of the A465 would have limited influence due to <i>“Almost the entire area is now covered by modern forestry”</i> which limits the majority of outward views. The additional effect would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effects would become Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant as a consequence of the operational Pen-y-Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer and Llynfi Afan Wind Farms and the consented Mynydd Fforch Dwm scheme. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.

3. Indirect landscape effects

3.1 Surrounding HLAA's

- 3.1.1 The assessment of indirect landscape effects on the surrounding HLAA's which have been scoped into the LVIA will be undertaken as part of the Final ES.