



Pennant Walters

GLANLLYNFI GARTH WIND FARM

Draft Environmental Statement

Chapter 6 - Landscape and Visual



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6 Landscape and Visual

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1. This chapter presents the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development with respect to landscape and visual receptors. The assessment is based on information obtained to date. It should be read in conjunction with the project description provided in **Chapter 4: Development Description** and with respect to relevant parts of the following chapters:
- **Chapter 7: Historic Environment**, which assesses the effects of the Proposed Development on heritage assets;
 - **Chapter 8: Biodiversity**, which assesses the effects of the Proposed Development on habitats and species, including trees within the Development Site;
 - **Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport**, and in particular Appendix 12A Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan sets out the likely environmental measures which would be implemented in relation to the PRoW which are affected by the construction and operational phase of the Proposed Development; and
 - **Chapter 15: Socio-economics**, including tourism and recreation which assesses the effects of the Proposed Development on the use of public rights of way (PRoW) within the Site.
- 6.1.2. This chapter describes:
- the legislation, policy and technical guidance that has informed the assessment (Section 6.2);
 - consultation and engagement that has been undertaken and how comments from consultees relating to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) have been addressed (Section 6.3);
 - the methods used for baseline data gathering (Section 6.4);
 - overall baseline (Section 6.5);
 - embedded measures relevant to landscape and visual amenity (Section 6.6);
 - the scope of the assessment for landscape and visual amenity (Section 6.7);
 - the methods used for the assessment (Section 6.8);
 - the assessment of landscape effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas (Section 6.9);
 - the assessment of landscape effects: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (Section 6.10);
 - the assessment of landscape effects: Gower National Landscape (Section 6.11);
 - the assessment of landscape effects: Glamorgan Heritage Coast (Section 6.12);
 - the assessment of landscape effects: local landscape designations (Section 6.13);
 - the assessment of visual effects (Section 6.14);
 - assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects (Section 6.15);

- a summary of the significance conclusions (Section 6.16); and
- an outline of further work to be undertaken for the Environmental Statement (ES) (Section 6.17).

6.1.3. A number of appendices accompany this LVIA as follows:

- **Appendix 6A** LVIA Methodology and Glossary;
- **Appendix 6B** LANDMAP Filtering Process;
- **Appendix 6C** LANDMAP Aspect Areas: baseline descriptions and sensitivity assessments;
- **Appendix 6D** LANDMAP Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects;
- **Appendix 6E** LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects;
- **Appendix 6F** LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects;
- **Appendix 6G** LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects;
- **Appendix 6H** LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects;
- **Appendix 6I** Assessment of landscape effects: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park;
- **Appendix 6J** Assessment of landscape effects: Gower National Landscape;
- **Appendix 6K** Viewpoint Assessment; and
- **Appendix 6L** Assessment of Visual Effects.

6.1.4. These appendices contain the extensive volume of baseline information and detailed assessments with summaries included in **Sections 6.9 to 6.12** in order to present a clear and succinct Draft ES chapter.

6.1.5. A further two appendices will form part of the Final ES as follows:

- **Appendix 6M** Residential Visual Amenity Assessment; and
- **Appendix 6N** Night-time assessment.

Limitations and assumptions

6.1.6. The Draft ES has been produced to fulfil Pennant Walters's consultation duties and enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Project.

6.1.7. Although several field surveys have been carried out, not every landscape and visual receptor has been visited in the field and professional experience has been applied to the judgements made in the LVIA and accompanying appendices.

6.1.8. In terms of visual effects, it is considered that screening provided by vegetation cover would not remain constant throughout the year. The assessment of effects is based on an estimate of worst-case scenario winter views, where deciduous wooded species have lost their leaves, with a filtering branch structure remaining. The baseline photography supporting this assessment shows winter views.

- 6.1.9. Field surveys have been carried out from publicly accessible locations only in accordance with the emphasis in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition)¹. Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 - Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)² also states '*LVIA relates to public amenity – the value of the view to the public - and Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) relates to private amenity - the value of the views to those who live there.*'
- 6.1.10. The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) and Night-Time Assessment (which will be informed by a Lighting Mitigation Strategy) will be undertaken based on the final layout of the Proposed Development and therefore reported as part of the Final ES.
- 6.1.11. The information used to inform the baseline environment and assessment of effects for LVIA is considered sufficient, suitable and proportionate for the purposes of the EIA. Consequently, it is considered that the available information provides a robust basis upon which to assess the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

6.2 Relevant legislation, planning policy and technical guidance

- 6.2.1. This section identifies the legislation, planning policy and technical guidance that has informed the assessment of effects with respect to landscape and visual amenity. Further information on policies relevant to the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 5: Legislative and Policy Overview**.

Legislation

- 6.2.2. A summary of the relevant legislation is given in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1 Technical guidance relevant to the LVIA

Technical guidance document	Context
Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015³	The Act puts in place seven well-being goals to help ensure that public bodies are all working towards the same vision of a sustainable Wales. In relation to landscape matters, the most relevant well-being goal is the achievement of 'a resilient Wales', which seeks to maintain and enhance a biodiverse natural environment. Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 ⁴ recognises that this goal can be supported by protecting sufficient scales, extent and connectivity of, and between, landscapes and habitats to enable them to withstand the pressures of change and protect and enhance biodiversity and to promote opportunities for social and economic activity based on valuing and enabling access to the natural, historic and built environment.

¹ Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. 3rd edition. London. Routledge

² Landscape Institute (2024) Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3). (Online). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf

³ National Assembly for Wales (2015) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. (Online). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2>

⁴ Welsh Government (2024) *Planning Policy Wales Edition 12*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-07/planning-policy-wales-edition-12.pdf>

Technical guidance document	Context
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949⁵	This Act provided the framework for the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (now National Landscapes), including the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park which lies within the Study Area of the LVIA (see Section 6.4). One of a National Park's statutory duties is the promotion of public understanding and enjoyment of each Park's special qualities steered by a National Park Authority as guided by each Park's statutory Management Plan.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000⁶	Section 85 requires public bodies to consider whether any activities outside of a National Landscape may affect land in the National Landscape. Planning Policy Wales emphasises that this duty is relevant in considering development proposals that are situated outside of the National Landscape boundary, but which might have an impact on the setting of the National Landscape.

Planning Policy

6.2.3. A summary of the relevant national and local planning policy is given in **Table 6.2**.

Table 6.2 Planning policy relevant to the LVIA

Technical guidance document	Context
National planning policy	
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040⁷	Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure notes that there is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development in Pre-Assessed Areas for wind developments (which the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way), subject to the criteria in Policy 18. The Proposed Development Site lies partially within Pre-Assessed Area 9. The policy continues by stating that all proposals should demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment. Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance. Proposals qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to Policy 17 and the criteria listed under Policy 18. Of relevance to the LVIA for the Project, item 2 requires that there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings. The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered.
Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12⁴	With specific reference to large scale wind developments and the landscape, paragraph 5.9.17 recognises that Future Wales identifies Pre-Assessed Areas where the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development in these areas, subject to other criteria contained within the policy.

⁵ Parliament of the United Kingdom (1949) *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/97/contents>

⁶ Parliament of the United Kingdom (2000) *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

⁷ Welsh Government (2021) *Future Wales - The National Plan 2040*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040-0>

Technical guidance document	Context
	General LVIA issues are included in Chapter 6 - Distinctive and Natural Places and more specifically within Section 6.3 Landscape. With regard to statutory landscape designations i.e., National Parks and National Landscapes, paragraph 6.3.5 states that the duty to have regard to their purposes applies to activities affecting these areas whether those activities are located within or outside a National Park or a National Landscape. Paragraph 6.3.12 and 6.3.13 relate to non-statutory designations such as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) that define local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area. Planning authorities should apply these designations where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. Paragraphs 6.3.19 and 6.3.21 concerns the use of LANDMAP and its role in informing landscape assessments needed to inform local authorities in making local policy, guidance and decision making.
Local planning policy	
Bridgend County Borough Local Development Plan 2018-2033⁸	Policy SP13: Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy - Section 1 of this policy permits such development where (amongst other things): <i>“a) It can be demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable impacts on the natural and historic environment or local communities b) the proposal (inclusive of its associated infrastructure) has sought to minimise the landscape and visual impact through its design and micro-siting, particularly where in close proximity to homes and tourism receptors’ f) there would not be unacceptable impact on the amenity of residential properties or tourist accommodation”.</i> Section 2 of policy SP13 states that Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) 1, 8 and 12 as suitable for wind and solar energy. The Proposed Development lies within LCA 3⁹.
	Policy SP17: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment states (amongst other things) that <i>“Development which will maintain and, wherever possible, enhance the natural environment of the County Borough will be favoured”</i>. With regard to landscape and visual issues, the policy continues stating, <i>“Development proposals will not be permitted where they will have an adverse impact upon:</i> <i>1) The integrity of the County Borough’s countryside;</i> <i>2) The character of its landscape”.</i>
	Policy DNP1: Development in the Countryside – The relevant sections of the policy state <i>“All development outside defined settlement boundaries must ensure that the integrity of the countryside is conserved and enhanced. There is a presumption against development in the countryside, except where it is for:</i> <i>8) Renewable energy projects”.</i>
	Policy DNP4: Special Landscape Areas – This policy identifies nine non-statutory SLA designations, the location and extent of which are shown on Figure 6.9 (Sheets 1-4). The policy states that: <i>“Development in SLAs will only be permitted where:</i> <i>1) It retains or enhances the character and distinctiveness of the SLA;</i>

⁸ Bridgend County Borough Council (2024) Bridgend County Borough Local Development Plan 2018-2033. (Online). Available at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/local-development-plan/adopted-replacement-local-development-plan-2018-2033/>

⁹ Bridgend County Borough Council (2014) SPG20 Renewables in the Landscape: Supplementary Planning Guidance (Online). Available at: <https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s2150/Renewables%20In%20The%20Landscape%20appendix.pdf>

Technical guidance document	Context
	2) <i>The design of the development reflects the building traditions of the locality in its form, materials and details, and/or assimilates itself into the wider landscape; and</i> 3) <i>The proposed development is accompanied by a Landscape Impact Assessment (LIA), which takes into account the impact of the development and sets out proposals to mitigate any adverse effects."</i> The policy continues by stating that <i>"The settings of SLAs will be protected with consideration of the views from those areas to the settlements of the County Borough"</i>. Policy DNP7: Trees, Hedgerows and Development states <i>"Development that would adversely affect trees, woodlands and hedgerows of public amenity or natural/cultural heritage value, or that provide important ecosystem services, will not normally be permitted. Where trees are to be replaced a scheme for tree replacement must be agreed prior to the commencement of development, including details of planting and aftercare"</i>. Policy DNP9: Natural Resource Protection and Public Health states that Development proposed will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they would not cause a new, or exacerbate an existing, unacceptable risk of harm to health, biodiversity and/or local amenity due to a number of factors including light pollution.
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) Authority Local Development Plan 2007-2022¹⁰	Policy SP9: Renewable Energy. Whilst this policy refers to renewable energy schemes within the National Park, the accompanying text at paragraphs 3.16.2.9 and 3.16.2.10 recognises the potential impact of large-scale renewable energy projects located on the peripheries of the National Park which will be judged in accordance with SP2 Major Development in the National Park. Policy SP9 states that proposals for renewable energy schemes will only be permitted where they do not have a significant adverse impact on the Natural Beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and special qualities of the National Park Policy SP2: Major Development in the National Park – Strategic Policy. Major development in the National Park should only take place in exceptional circumstances, where proven to be in the public interest. Proposals will be judged against a number of criteria including any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which these could be moderated. Policy 12: Light Pollution. This policy states that proposals where lighting is required, it will be permitted where: the lighting proposed is appropriate to its purpose; and there is not a significant adverse effect individually or cumulatively on a number of criteria including (of relevance to the LVIA), the character of the area and the visibility of the night sky.

6.2.4. Reference has also been made to Dyfodol y Bannau (The Future), The Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028¹¹ with regard to identifying the Special Qualities of this nationally designated landscape and to inform the assessment of effects set out in **Appendix 6I**.

¹⁰ Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (2013) Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan 2007-2022. (Online). Available at: <https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Brecon-Written-Statement.pdf>

¹¹ Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (2023) *Y Bannau The Future. The Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028*. (online). Available at: <https://future.bannau.wales>

Technical Guidance

6.2.5. A summary of the technical guidance for the LVIA is set out in **Table 6.3**

Table 6.3 Technical guidance relevant to the LVIA

Technical guidance document	Context
Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition)¹	The third edition of this guidance (known as 'GLVIA3') which is produced by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment is widely regarded by landscape and planning professions as the 'industry standard' together with best practice and professional experience. GLVIA3 ¹ provides the framework within which the remaining sections of the Draft ES have been undertaken with a summary of the methodology by which the LVIA has been undertaken being set out in Section 6.8 , and in detail in Appendix 6A .
Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 - Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)²	This document provides a compilation of clarifications on the GLVIA3 ¹ and has been produced to help interpret aspects of the guidance provided in GLVIA3 ¹ and should be read alongside GLVIA3 ¹ .
Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (GN46)¹²	This guidance outlines Natural Resources Wales (NRW) advice on how LANDMAP information should be used in LVIA's. It sets out typical search and study area extents for a range of heights of tall structures and describes the filtering process that should be applied to existing LANDMAP evidence to help focus the detailed assessment of potentially sensitive landscape and visual receptors on the aspect areas most likely to be affected.
Visual Representation of Windfarms (Version 2.2)¹³	This guidance is focussed on the production of visualisation-related materials to be included within an ES LVIA, made available to the public and to inform decision making. All wind farm applications requiring a LVIA as part of an EIA should conform with the requirements set out within this document.
Technical Guidance Note 06/19 - Visual Representation of Development Proposals¹⁴	This Technical Guidance Note applies to visual representation of all forms of development. Paragraph 1.5.3 notes that the Landscape Institute (LI) supports the Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) Guidance: Visual Representation of Wind Farms v2.2 and that the Visual Representation of Development Proposals is broadly consistent with the guidance, particularly in respect of Type 4 Visualisation.
Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments¹⁵	This guidance sets out advice on assessing cumulative landscape and visual impacts and is referenced in Chapter 7 of GLVIA3 ¹ .

¹² Natural Resources Wales (2025) Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46. (Online). Available at: <https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/using-landmap-in-landscape-and-visual-impact-assessments-gn46/?lang=en>

¹³ Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) (2017) Visual representation of wind farms: Guidance. Version 2.2. (Online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance>

¹⁴ Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. (Online). Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/>

¹⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) (2021) Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments. (Online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments#Introduction+and+scope+of+this+guidance>

Technical guidance document	Context
Technical Information Note 2/2019 – Residential Visual Amenity Assessment¹⁶	This Technical Information Note summarises the requirement and stages of undertaking a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) that focuses upon private views and visual amenity in a manner that is beyond the type of visual assessment specified in GLVIA3 ¹ . The approach set out facilitates the provision of an RVAA that can be used by a decision maker when weighing potential effects upon overall residential amenity in the planning balance.
Technical Information Note 04/2020 - Infrastructure¹⁷	This Technical Information Note provides information on the planning, design and management of infrastructure to support the delivery of major infrastructure projects in the UK. Part 1 of the document explains what infrastructure is, the role of the Landscape Professional and the planning and design process in a major infrastructure project. Part 2 provides technical guidance and resources, introducing documents of relevance to different infrastructure types.
Technical Guidance Note 02/21 - Assessing landscape value outside national designations¹⁸	This Technical Guidance Note provides information and guidance to landscape professionals and others who need to make judgments about the value of a landscape (outside national landscape designations) in the context of the UK Town and Country Planning system.
Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects¹⁹	This guidance applies to the Special Qualities (SQs) identified for National Parks and describes the sequence of steps to follow in a SQ assessment, demonstrates how the SQs can be used to influence the siting and design of a proposal and explains why and how this information is required to inform judgements on effects in relation to planning and land use policies.
Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment²⁰	The Guidance explains why night-time Aviation Lighting Impact Assessments are needed and sets down a three-stage process for evaluating and illustrating the landscape and visual effects of aviation warning lights.
Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales²¹	This guide “ <i>promotes a holistic consideration of power generation infrastructure (i.e. wind turbines and solar panels) and associated infrastructure to ensure schemes are considered in their entirety</i> ”. It should be noted that this publication is not a policy document and instead provides guidance relating to policy, as set out in the Welsh Government’s Planning Policy Wales and Policies 17 and 18 of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040.

¹⁶ Landscape Institute (2019) *Technical Guidance Note 2/19 - Residential Visual Amenity Assessment*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/rvaa/>

¹⁷ Landscape Institute (2020) *Technical Information Note 04/2020 – Infrastructure*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/news/infrastructure-guidance-updated/>

¹⁸ Landscape Institute (2021) *Technical Guidance Note 02/21 - Assessing landscape value outside national designations*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/publication/tgn-02-21-assessing-landscape-value-outside-national-designations/>

¹⁹ NatureScot (2025) *Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects>

²⁰ NatureScot (2024) *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-aviation-lighting-impact-assessment>

²¹ Design Commission for Wales (2023) *Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-12/designing-for-renewable-energy-in-wales.pdf> (Accessed March 2026)

6.3 Consultation and Engagement

Overview

- 6.3.1. The assessment has been informed by consultation responses and ongoing stakeholder engagement. An overview of the approach to consultation is provided in **Chapter 2: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment**.

Scoping Opinion

- 6.3.2. A Scoping Direction was issued by the Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales (PEDW), on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, on 12 June 2026. A summary of the relevant responses received in the Scoping Opinion in relation to the LVIA and confirmation of how these have been addressed within the assessment to date is presented in **Table 6.4**.
- 6.3.3. The information provided forms part of the Draft ES and not all of the Scoping Direction comments have been addressed at this stage, however, all comments will be addressed within the ES.

Table 6.4 Summary of EIA Scoping Direction Responses for the LVIA

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
PEDW ID.4	The Applicant's attention is drawn to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA)'s comments in Appendix 1 that while the SR states the NatureScot Guidance is accounted for, it does not commit to the methodology set out within. The NPA recommends a more appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study area is used with additional desk and site-based data to more appropriately assess the impact on the special qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) to be in line with Step 2C of the NatureScot Guidance. PEDW is in agreement that the Applicant should consult with BBNPA and NRW on an appropriate study area for the LVIA in the ES.	The LVIA Study Area has been defined with reference to NRW's Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46¹² which advises that the LVIA Study Area for structures of a height of between 176 m to 225 m should extend to 26 km to 28 km distance from each of the proposed turbine locations. NRW in its response to the Scoping Report confirmed that the 27 km Study Area proposed in the Scoping Report was appropriate. It should be noted that this has now been increased to a 28 km distance from each of the proposed turbines in accordance with BBNPA's scoping response (PEDW ID.5). With regard to Step 2C of the NatureScot Guidance which notes that the Study Area for a special landscape qualities assessment "should relate to the location and type of the proposal and an initial prediction of likely significant effects"¹⁹, the 28 km LVIA Study Area is considered to be appropriate based on the scale and location of the Proposed Development, the assessor's experience of other wind energy development in South Wales and relevant planning decisions for comparable scale wind turbines. This includes: • Mynydd Carn y Cefn Wind Farm (consented²²), an eight-turbine scheme with

²² With respect to the BBNP, the Inspector concluded "I do not consider that there would be any significant effects on landscape character within the BBNP or its setting, or any significant effects on the special qualities of the designation" (2024-03-11 – INSPECTORS REPORT ENGLISH DNS (Report DNS/3270299) available at <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case/CAS-01300-M1S9S4>)

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
		a blade tip height of 180 m, with the closest area of theoretical visibility within the BBNP occurring at a distance of approximately 7.6 km from the closest turbine. Twyn Hywel Wind Farm (consented²³), a 14-turbine scheme with a blade tip height of 200 m, which is located approximately 17.4 km from the nearest boundary of the BBNP. It should also be noted that the methodology used for defining the boundaries of the Pre-Assessed Areas in Future Wales⁷ specifically considered the landscape impacts of wind turbines up to 250 m in height. Policy in Future Wales has therefore concluded that landscape impacts of proposals within these areas would be acceptable in principle. As a consequence of the above factors, combined with the closest area of theoretical visibility within the BBNP being blade tip visibility of 1-2 turbines at a minimum distance of approximately 18.5 km, and the principle of proportionality advocated in GLVIA3¹, it is not proposed that the Study Area for the special landscape qualities assessment differ to that for the LVIA overall. The assessment of effects on the Special Qualities of the BBNP has therefore been undertaken on this basis, and the Applicant presents Appendix 6I and the conclusions of the Draft ES as a mechanism for consulting BBNPA on the final study area for the ES.
PEDW ID.5	The Applicant's attention is drawn to BBNPA's comments in Appendix 1 that the LVIA Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) does not include areas of the BBNP that would theoretically be impacted, and therefore the study area should be expanded from 27 km to 28 km.	The LVIA Study Area has been increased from 27 km to 28 km as illustrated in Figure 6.1 Landscape and Visual Study Area .
PEDW ID.6	The Applicant's attention is drawn to NPTC's comments that despite the ZTV potentially extending across parts of NPTC (the response mentions upland areas such as the Margam uplands and the western slopes of the Afan Valley) the current viewpoints listed in the SR do not appropriately represent these areas. A list of recommended viewpoints by NPTC can be found within their response in Appendix 1. PEDW is in agreement with this point, and recommends the Applicant liaises further with NPTC on this matter.	NPTC requested consideration of three additional viewpoints in Appendix 1 of the Scoping Direction as follows: "<i>Upland recreational receptors on the Margam uplands (e.g. the Mynydd Margam ridge)</i>". An additional viewpoint has been identified on St Illtyd's Way on the edge of the Margam Forestry Block (approximate grid reference 283609, 191218). "<i>Views from the western skyline and upland ridges above the Afan Valley</i>". An additional viewpoint has been identified on a local PRoW adjacent to the forest edge on

²³ The Welsh Ministers Decision Letter dated 05 November 2024 states that "Whilst recognising NRW's concerns regarding the impact of the proposal on Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP), having weighed the evidence and visited the site and viewpoints, the Inspector considers the impact on BBNP and its special qualities would be minor and not significant" (<https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case/CAS-01305-T0C6K6>)

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
		Mynydd Emroch (approximate grid reference 279162, 190938). “A viewpoint representing residential receptors within the upper Afan Valley”. An additional viewpoint has been identified within Croeserw within Tudor Park and adjacent to National Cycle Network Route 885 (approximate grid reference 286376, 195224). These additional viewpoints will be included as part of the final ES.
PEDW ID.6	The Applicant's attention is drawn to NRW's comments concerning the BBNP and the Gower National Landscape (GNL). PEDW is in agreement that the ES should consider the following recommendations: Mumbles Hill as an additional complementary location to Viewpoint 19 for uninterrupted views over Swansea Bay. Other viewpoints alongside viewpoint 20 for the BBNP that are more elevated. The ES should include the viewpoints requested by NRW. The Applicant should liaise with the relevant LPAs, NRW and BBNPA over the final selection of viewpoints.	The Final ES will include two additional viewpoints as requested by NRW. These viewpoints are not included in this submission and will be included and assessed as part of the final ES: - Mumbles Hill (approximate grid reference 262781, 187443); and - Fan Gyhrych Triangulation Point (approximate grid reference 288055, 219073).
PEDW ID.7	The Applicant is reminded that Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 by the Landscape Institute states in Section 6: <i>"Regarding seasonal constraints, it is within the competence of a landscape professional to be able to describe how the landscape and views would vary with the seasons, and to take account of these changes in their assessment."</i> Considering the viewpoints highlighted by consultees in the above issues, PEDW recommends that the Applicant should liaise with consultees regarding any concerns with this limitation. PEDW stresses that, in any case, should these additional or alternative viewpoints be photographed within a suboptimal time period, the ES should report on these limitations and include details of how professional judgement is applied when accounting for the additional screening provided by the leaves when assessing the significance of the impact.	As set out in Section 6.1 of this Draft ES, “<i>The assessment of effects is based on an estimate of worst-case scenario winter views, where deciduous wooded species have lost their leaves, with a filtering branch structure remaining</i>”. Viewpoint photography included in this Draft ES has been taken in March 2026 and therefore illustrates winter conditions. Whilst the additional viewpoints identified by NPTC and NRW are primarily from upland areas, where seasonal leaf cover has a more limited effect on the availability of views, the assessments presented in this Draft ES and those that will be presented in Final ES consider a worst-case scenario with regard to vegetative screening and any limitations will be reported.
PEDW ID.8	NRW is in agreement with SQs for BBNP and GNL scoped into the LVIA, although recommends that the ES use these SQs as headings and that	The assessment of effects on the Special Qualities of the BBNP is set out in Appendix 6I, with the baseline drawing on the BBNP Landscape Character Assessment and

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	assessment of the impacts to them are informed by detailed supporting evidence such as the BBNP Landscape Character Assessment August 2012 and LANDMAP.	constituent LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs). The LCA and LANDMAP evidence has informed the assessment of effects, which is considered under a series of headings, based on the four Special Qualities scoped into the assessment. The assessment of effects on the Special Qualities of the Gower National Landscape is set out in Appendix 6J, with the baseline similarly drawing from the Gower Landscape Character Assessment and relevant LANDMAP VSAs. This evidence has also informed the assessment of effects, which is again set out under a series of headings, based upon the three Special Qualities scoped into the assessment.
PEDW ID.9	The Applicant's attention is drawn to NPTC's comments that the Y Bryn Wind Farm has not been considered in the SR in relation to cumulative landscape and visual impacts. NPTC highlights that despite Y Bryn Wind Farm being refused, the proposal is undergoing Judicial Review, and the LVIA should consider the scheme within its cumulative assessment or state why it has been scoped out. PEDW is in agreement with NPTC on this point.	The status of Y Bryn Wind Farm will continue to be monitored, and the wind farm will be included as a cumulative scheme in the Final ES if consented or if the Judicial Review has not been concluded. It has not been included in the cumulative assessment as part of this Draft ES.
PEDW ID.10	As requested by NPTC, the LVIA should consider the cumulative landscape and visual impacts across the upland landscape that extend between the Llynfi, Afan and Ogmore valleys. Assessment of cumulative wind energy development should use elevated viewpoints and recreational routes within the upland landscape. PEDW is in agreement with NPTC on this matter and the Applicant should seek agreement from NPTC as to the approach to be adopted in the ES.	The landscape assessment in Appendix 6F considers the effects on the LANDMAP VSAs which have been scoped into the assessment in accordance with NRW's Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46¹², whilst Section 6.11 sets out the landscape assessment with respect to Special Landscape Areas, many of which coincide with the upland landscapes between the Llynfi, Afan and Ogmore valleys. All assessments include cumulative assessments. The visual assessment in Appendix 6K includes viewpoints located on uplands between the Llynfi, Afan and Ogmore valleys (Viewpoints 9 and 11). This will be extended as part of the Final ES to include NPTC's requested viewpoints on the Mynydd Margam ridge and upland ridges above the Afan Valley at Mynydd Emroch. All assessments include a cumulative assessment. The visual assessment in Section 6.14 includes an assessment of effects on the views of recreational receptors using long-distance recreational routes which cross the upland areas between the three valleys, which also considers cumulative effects. All cumulative assessments will be updated as part of the Final ES in accordance with the final cumulative list which may include Y Bryn Wind

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
		Farm, depending on its status at the time of the final assessment.
PEDW ID.11	The Applicant's attention is drawn to NRW's comments advising that the ES should clearly explain how the LVIA findings have influenced the design, including turbine location, scale, number and configuration. NRW recommends the following design guidance in relation to the LVIA: Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales, Design Commission for Wales, November 2023 Planning Policy Wales (5.9.21) NRW quotes specific passages from these, which can be found in their response in Appendix 1. The final ES should clearly address the alternatives considered and how environmental considerations influenced the final proposal.	A description of the design iterations is included in Chapter 3: Scheme Need, Alternatives and Iterative Design Process and the Draft Design and Access Statement. The initial layout options were prepared based on a range of technical, economic and environmental criteria including consideration of: • Environmental constraints – features and areas of local environmental sensitivity (ecology, archaeology, hydrology etc.); and • Landscape and visual design considerations are taken into account and the layout modified accordingly. This has been undertaken in accordance with Section 4.1 of Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales²¹ which states "<i>The construction of large-scale wind and solar energy installations should result from a thorough, multidisciplinary site selection and design process.....</i>". Section 6.6 sets out the embedded measures with regards to the LVIA.
Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)	BCBC note that the County Borough has been subject to a Landscape Character Assessment, the results of which have been used to inform 'SPG 20: Renewables in the Landscape'. The proposal is located within Landscape Character Area (LCA) 3: Llynfi & Garw Uplands and Forestry with SPG 20 noting that while this is a large-scale landscape, it is likely to be highly sensitive 'very large' clusters of wind turbines, which would remain out of scale with the underlying landform. However, it's relevant to note that landscape considerations have already been taken into account in Future Wales with regards to the areas of the site within Pre-Assessed Area 9.	Reference to Landscape Character Assessment for Bridgend County Borough and the findings of SPG 20: Renewables in the Landscape is set out in Section 6.5 Overall baseline. Where applicable, the landscape attributes considered in the published landscape sensitivity assessments have informed the assessment of sensitivity for the corresponding LANDMAP Aspect Areas in Appendix 6C: LANDMAP Aspect Areas: baseline descriptions and sensitivity assessments.
BBNPA	Agree that scoped into the Environmental Statement are impacts on the following special qualities of the BBNP: Special Landscapes: Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty, Special Landscapes: Contrasting patterns, colours, and textures, Special Experiences: Sounds, sights, smells and tastes, and,	The detailed assessment of effects on the four Special Qualities of the BBNP identified in the Scoping Report (Appendix 1A) and agreed with BBNPA through its scoping response is set out in Appendix 6I. Relevant policies relating to the BBNP are set out in Table 6.2 with reference to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) Authority Local Development Plan 2007-2022. This is included as a Local Policy Document as this document does not form part of the national policy framework.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	Special Experiences: Peace, tranquillity and dark skies. BBNP consider Dyfodol y Bannau, the National Park Management Plan should be included in Policy Context as being of national rather than local or regional significance.	Dyfodol y Bannau, the National Park Management Plan has been referenced in Section 6.2 and used to inform the assessment of effects on the BBNP's Special Qualities which is set out in Appendix 6I.
BBNPA	BBNPA do not understand why the study area for the LVIA has been set to 27km rather than 28 km. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip should be shown in full on Figure 5.1b LVIA Study Area and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip rather than be cut to the outer edge of the study area. This would likely demonstrate a greater extent of theoretical visibility in the Central Beacons area, for example in Fan Fawr lies just outside the study area yet there is theoretical visibility in close proximity to it. We question the selection of VP 20 Craig Derlwyn BBNP as being the most appropriate location for a representative assessment of views available to walkers visiting the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, especially as there are other closer viewpoints which may be visited by walkers including for example, Cribarth, Fan Gyhrych/ Fan Fraith, Fan Llia, Fan Fawr, Mynydd y Glog, and Cefn Yr Ystrad.	The 27 km Study Area included in the Scoping Report was derived from NRW's Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46¹² which advises that the LVIA Study Area for structures of a height of 176 m to 225m should extend to a 26 km to 28 km distance from each of the proposed turbine locations. This has now been increased to a 28 km Study Area (PEDW ID.5). It is important to note that the boundary of the LVIA Study Area is not the limit of potential visibility. Rather, it is an area defined by NRW on the basis of development management cases and evidence reports in relation to vertical structures, to determine a suitable LVIA Study Area for the assessment of wind farms which will contain all likely significant landscape and visual effects. The ZTVs in all LVIA figures which feature the ZTV extend beyond the Study Area boundary indicated in the figure. The examples of additional viewpoint locations suggested by the BBNPA have been reviewed and either discounted due to: • their location outside of the blade tip ZTV (Cribarth and Mynydd y Glog); or • following a review of the hub height ZTV in Figure 6.3, confirmation of blade tip visibility only at distances in excess of 25 km (Fan Llia, Fan Fawr and Cefn Yr Ystrad). Whilst both Fan Gyhrych and Fan Fraith lie within the ZTV, Fan Gyhrych has been selected as an additional viewpoint (PEDW ID.6) to be presented in the final ES on the basis that it also coincides with the Cambrian Way long distance walking route. This would also meet the request of NRW to consider a potential viewpoint on "elevated land east and west of Glyntawe".
BBNPA	The approach to cumulative assessment omits the significance of Future Wales Pre Assessed Areas (PAA) and policy to each scenario. Future Wales provides strong support for repowering in PAA which should be reflected in the concept of 'timeframe' and duration in the ES beyond that stated in the Scoping Report which, although acknowledging	Future Wales PAAs are broad areas of policy support rather than defined proposals and therefore do not represent committed or reasonably foreseeable schemes that can be included in a cumulative assessment. The repowering of existing, consented or future wind energy schemes would be subject to their own consenting processes and environmental assessment at the time, including

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	options for extending the lifespan or installing new equipment assumes decommissioning after 30 years. BBNPA consider, as having development plan status, that the cumulative effects with PAA for wind should be scoped and assessed. Currently it appears these areas would be scoped out on the cumulative assessment.	consideration of the cumulative effects based upon the cumulative context at that time. The Cumulative LVIA (CLVIA) has been undertaken with reference to NatureScots's Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments¹⁵. This states that <i>"An assessment of cumulative impacts associated with a specific development proposal should encompass the impacts of the proposal in combination with:</i> <i>• Existing development, either built or under construction;</i> <i>• Approved development, awaiting implementation; and</i> <i>• Proposals awaiting determination within the planning process with design information in the public domain".</i> The guidance continues stating that a cumulative impact assessment <i>"requires knowledge, at least in outline, of the impacts of each existing or proposed development within the vicinity."</i> This is not available with regard to the PAA and is therefore not included.
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	The Scoping Report proposes an LVIA study area of 27km distance from each turbine. This accords with recommended study areas in NRW Guidance Note (GN) 46 Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments.	The LVIA Study Area been increased to a 28 km distance from each of the proposed turbines in accordance with BBNPA's scoping response (PEDW ID.5).
NRW	NRW advise: • VP 19 is located in an area where existing tree cover may restrict visibility. Mumbles Hill provides uninterrupted views over Swansea Bay and an additional viewpoint from here would usefully complement VP 19. • Regarding VP 20, note other potential viewpoints within the BBNP which are located closer to the development and are more elevated, potentially offering increased visibility. For example, the elevated land east and west of Glyntawe, including the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu National Nature Reserve which is crossed by the Beacons Way and Cambrian Way. We recommend potential viewpoints in this location are considered and either included or ruled out with reasoning. Notwithstanding the above, in views from the BBNP it is likely the proposed turbines would, where visible, be seen behind and/or in the context of existing	Additional viewpoints within the BBNP and Gower National Landscape have not been included in this Draft ES and will be included in the Final ES in accordance with PEDW ID.6.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	wind turbine developments between the proposed development and the national park.	

Technical Engagement

- 6.3.4. Technical engagement with consultees in relation to the LVIA is ongoing. A summary of the technical engagement undertaken to date is outlined in **Table 6.5**.

Table 6.5 Technical engagement on the LVIA

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)	Early engagement (prior to the submission of the Scoping Report) with the host Local Planning Authority (LPA) to agree viewpoint locations in order to capture viewpoint photography under winter conditions.	Five additional viewpoint locations have been agreed with BCBC as follows: • PRow from the Llynfi BMX park up to the north side of Mynydd Pwll yr Iwrch; • Local PRow located between the two sites; • Adjacent to the Town Hall, Maesteg; • Local PRow and Cistercian Way (Wales) near to Y Bwlwarcu Hillfort (Scheduled Monument); and • Local PRow/ Glamorgan Ridgeway Walk. These have been included as Viewpoints 1, 2, 5, 12 and 16 respectively (Figures 6.15, 6.16, 6.19, 6.26 and 6.30), as set out in Table 6.8.

6.4 Data gathering methodology

Study Area

LVIA Study Area

- 6.4.1. LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (GN46)¹² advises that the LVIA Study Area for structures of a height of 176 m to 225 m should extend to a 26 km to 28 km distance from each of the proposed turbine locations. In accordance with the Scoping Direction, the LVIA Study Area of 28 km has been utilised for the Proposed Development which has a maximum turbine height of 180 m to blade tip. This LVIA study area is illustrated in **Figure 6.1**.
- 6.4.2. It is important to note that the boundary of the LVIA Study Area is not the limit of potential visibility. Rather, it is an area defined by NRW on the basis of development management cases and evidence reports in relation to vertical structures, to determine a suitable LVIA Study Area for the assessment of wind farms which will contain all likely significant landscape and visual effects.

Cumulative LVIA Study Area

- 6.4.3. The cumulative LVIA Study Area also extends to 28 km as illustrated in **Figure 6.6 Cumulative Context** and the cumulative ZTVs are presented in **Figures 6.12.1 to 6.12.11**.

Desk Study

- 6.4.4. A summary of the organisations that have supplied data, together with the nature of that data is outlined in **Table 6.6**.

Table 6.6 Data sources used to inform the LVIA

Organisation	Data source	Data provided
Ordnance Survey (OS)	Scale 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 mapping as appropriate.	Baseline information on the landscape context including topography, drainage, settlement pattern, land use, tree cover, promoted recreational routes, transport network and infrastructure.
Google Earth Pro	Aerial photography and Street View imagery.	Baseline information and Street View images on the landscape context including drainage, settlement pattern, land use, tree cover, transport network and infrastructure.
NRW	National Landscape Character Areas ²⁴ .	High-level baseline information on landscape character which sets the context for local LANDMAP data.
	LANDMAP Geological Landscape (GLAA), Landscape Habitats (LHAA), Visual and Sensory (VSAA), Historic Landscape (HLAA) and Cultural Landscape Services (CLSAA) GIS dataset and evaluations.	Baseline information on landscape character in Wales, recorded and evaluated in a nationally consistent data set.
	Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) GIS dataset.	Baseline information on the spatial distribution of SLAs within South Wales.
	Tranquillity and Place GIS dataset ²⁵ and accompanying report ²⁶ .	Baseline information on tranquillity provided by a nationally consistent terrestrial Tranquillity and Place resource which identifies visually tranquil areas for use as an evidence base.
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority	Y Bannau The Future. The Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028 ¹¹	Baseline information on the special qualities of the National Park.
	Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment ²⁷ .	Baseline information on landscape character within the National Park.

²⁴ Natural Resources Wales (2023) *National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) map and descriptions*. (online). Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en>

²⁵ Natural Resources Wales (2025) *Tranquillity and Place: Visually Tranquil Areas* (online). Available at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/865c1876d9f64280a3dfc6e2769a46a5>

²⁶ Green C, Manson D, Chamberlain K (2022) *Tranquillity and Place. NRW Report No: 569 (version 2)*. (online). Available at: <https://www.lucmaps.co.uk/NRW/TranquillityPlace/Tranquillity%20and%20Place%20-%20Theme%205%20Report.pdf>

²⁷ Fiona Fyfe Associates with Countryside, Alison Farmer Associates and Julie Martin Associates (2012) *Brecon Beacons*

Organisation	Data source	Data provided
Swansea Council	Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2017 ²⁸ .	Baseline information on the special qualities of the National Landscape.
	Gower Landscape Character Assessment ²⁹ .	Baseline information on landscape character within the National Landscape.
BCBC	Designation of Special Landscape Areas ³⁰ .	Provides baseline information on the SLAs within the area administered by BCBC.
Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC)	Replacement Local Development Plan 2023-2038 Special Landscape Areas ³¹ .	Provides baseline information on the SLAs within the area administered by NPTC.
	Landscape and Seascape Supplementary Planning Guidance ³² .	
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC)	Proposals for Designation of Special Landscape Areas ³³ .	Provides baseline information on the SLAs within the area administered by RCTCBC.
Sustrans	National Cycle Routes ³⁴ .	Provides details of National Cycle routes within the LVIA Study Area

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

- 6.4.5. Analysis of ZTV maps is used to further define the scope of the assessment. The ZTVs have been calculated using ArcGIS computer software to produce an area of potential visibility of any part of the proposed turbines, calculated to turbine blade-tip and hub-height at heights 180 m and 112 m Above Ground Level (AGL) respectively, on the basis of the candidate turbine specification.
- 6.4.6. The ZTV does not however take account of built development and vegetation, which can significantly reduce the area and extent of actual visibility in the field and as such provides the limits of the visual assessment Study Area. As a result, there may be roads, tracks and footpaths in the wider setting which, although shown as falling within the ZTV, have restricted viewing opportunities since they are heavily screened or filtered by built form, forestry, banks, walls or hedgerow vegetation. The ZTVs therefore provide a starting point in the assessment process and accordingly tend to over-estimate the potential visibility of the proposed turbines.

National Park Landscape Character Assessment. (online). Available at: <https://beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/landscape-character-assessment/>

²⁸ Swansea Council (2017) Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2017. (online). Available at: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/9104/Gower---managed-in-partnership>

²⁹ City and County of Swansea Council (2013) *Gower Landscape Character Assessment*. (online). Available at: <https://swansea.gov.uk/gowerlandscapecharacter?lang=en>

³⁰ TACP on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (2010). *Designation of Special Landscape Areas*. (online). Available at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/nt5j2ryh/sd94-special-landscape-designations-2010.pdf>

³¹ Neath Port Talbot Council (2024) *Replacement Local Development Plan 2023-2038 Special Landscape Areas*. (online). Available at: <https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/yznjf1kc/doc-28-special-landscape-area.pdf>

³² Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (2018) *Landscape and Seascape Supplementary Planning Guidance*. (online). Available at: https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/j42dzulp/spg_landscapes_seascape_may18.pdf?v=20241209172432

³³ Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect (2008). *Rhondda Cynon Taff Proposals for Designation of Special Landscape Areas*. (online). Available at: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/PlanningandBuildingControl/LocalDevelopmentPlans/LDPEvidenceBaseLibraryandAnnualMonitoringRe/RelateddocumentsEvidenceBase/EB49.pdf>

³⁴ Sustrans (2026). Map of the National Cycle Network. (Online). Available at: <https://explore.osmaps.com/?lat=51.64114&lon=-2.92363&zoom=8.4445&overlays=os-ncn-layer&style=Standard&type=2d>

6.4.7. Four ZTV maps for the Proposed Development have been provided as follows:

- **Figure 6.2:** illustrates the ZTV calculated to blade tip height (180 m) at 1:225,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of the 20 viewpoints included in the LVIA;
- **Figure 6.3:** illustrates the ZTV calculated to hub height (105 m) at 1:225,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of the 20 viewpoints included in the LVIA;
- **Figure 6.4:** illustrates a detailed ZTV calculated to blade tip height (180 m) at 1:100,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of 17 of the 20 viewpoints included in the LVIA (1-17); and
- **Figure 6.5:** illustrates a detailed ZTV calculated to hub height (105 m) at 1:100,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of 17 of the 20 viewpoints included in the LVIA (1-17).

Wind Farms relevant to the cumulative assessment

6.4.8. Other existing and consented wind farms, and wind farm applications within the CLVIA Study Area that have been scoped into the CLVIA (as set out in **Section 6.7**) are shown on **Figure 6.6** and included in **Table 6.7**. This is based on data gathered in May 2026 and reflects the situation as of 31 May 2026. The list of wind farms will be reviewed and if necessary updated as part of the Final ES and any changes will be reflected in the final CLVIA.

Table 6.7 Wind Farms relevant to the cumulative assessment

Ref	Name	Local Authority	Number of turbines	Height to blade tip (m)	Approximate distance from Proposed Development
Operational (O)					
O1	Llynfi Afan	NPTC/BCBC	12	118 m	0.7 km
O2	Pen y Cymoedd	NPTC/RCTCBC	76	145 m	5 km
O3	Fforch Nest/Pant-Y-Wal (+ Extension)	BCBC/RCTCBC	11/10/8	90 m	5.3 km
O4	Ffynnon Oer	NPTC	16	91 m	5.5 km
O5	Mynydd Brombil	NPTC	4	100 m	8.5 km
O6	Mynydd Portref/Mynydd Portref Extension/Taff Ely	RCTCBC	11/6/20	86 m / 110 m / 55 m	8.8 km
O7	Maerdy	RCTCBC	8	145 m	10.1 km
O8	Parc Stormy	BCBC	2	125 m / 105 m	10.3 km
O9	Newton Down	BCBC	2	125 m	10.9 km
O10	Ferndale	RCTCBC	8	76 m	11.1 km
O11	Mynydd Bwllfa	RCTCBC	9	125 m	11.6 km
O12	Maesgwyn	NPTC	14	125 m	14.2 km
O13	Tairgwaith Wind Farm	NPTC	2	100 m	22.4 km

Ref	Name	Local Authority	Number of turbines	Height to blade tip (m)	Approximate distance from Proposed Development
O14	Mynydd y Gwair	SC	16	127 m	24.5 km
O15	Mynydd y Betws	CCC	15	110 m	24.6 km
Consented/Under Construction (C)					
C1	Foel Trawsnant	NPTC	11	145 m	2.8 km
C2	Upper Ogmore	BCBC	7	130 m / 149.9 m	3.5 km
C3	Mynydd Fforch-Dwm	NPTC	7	200 m	6 km
C4	Abergorki	RCTCBC	3	145 m	10.5 km
C5	Mynydd y Glyn	RCTCBC	7	180 m	13.5 km
C6	Twyn Hywel	RCTCBC /CCBC	20	200 m	20 km
Application (A)					
A1	Mynydd Ty-talwyn	BCBC/ NPTC	6	200 m	3.8 km
A2	Llanwonno	RCTCBC	8	149.9 m / 160 m / 180 m / 200 m	14.9 km
A3	Mynydd y Gaer	BCBC	11	180 m / 200 m / 230 m	6.3 km
Scoping (S) (including Post PAC)					
S1	Carreg Wen	RCTCBC	18	230 m	11.8 km
S3	Hirfynydd	NPTC	7	200 m	13.2 km
S3	Upper Lliw	SC	19	200 m	22.7 km

6.4.9. In accordance with the Scoping Report, the following have been scoped out from further assessment in the cumulative assessment:

- Micro-generation turbines (25-50 m) that are located more than 5 km from the boundary of the Site, with those within 5 km only being included if they consist of three or more turbines; and
- Single turbine wind energy developments that are located more than 10 km from the boundary of the Site.

6.4.10. Eleven cumulative ZTVs have been prepared to provide an indication of the inter-visibility between those schemes that are considered to have the greatest potential to generate significant cumulative landscape or visual effects. The cumulative developments have been grouped according to their planning status and/or geographical location. All of the cumulative ZTVs assume bare ground and are calculated to blade tip height, indicating the maximum theoretical visibility of other wind farms. The 11 ZTVs and the schemes included in each are as follows:

- Figure 6.12.1 Glanllynfi Garth with Llynfi Afan and Upper Ogmore;
- Figure 6.12.2 Glanllynfi Garth with Foel Trawsnant and Mynydd Fforch-Dwm;
- Figure 6.12.3 Glanllynfi Garth with Ffynnon Oer;

- Figure 6.12.4 Glanllynfi Garth with Pen y Cymoedd and Mynydd Bwllfa;
- Figure 6.12.5 Glanllynfi Garth with Maerdy and Carreg Wen;
- Figure 6.12.6 Glanllynfi Garth with Ferndale and Abergorki;
- Figure 6.12.7 Glanllynfi Garth with Fforch Nest/Pant-Y-Wal (+Extension) and Mynydd y Gaer;
- Figure 6.12.8 Glanllynfi Garth with Mynydd Brombil and Mynydd Ty-talwyn;
- Figure 6.12.9 Glanllynfi Garth with Mynydd Portef/ Mynydd Portref Extension/ Taff Ely;
- Figure 6.12.10 Glanllynfi Garth with Mynydd y Glyn and Llanwonno; and
- Figure 6.12.11 Glanllynfi Garth with Maesgwyn and Hirfynydd.

Survey work

- 6.4.11. A number of field surveys have been undertaken in March 2026 to obtain viewpoint photography under winter conditions.
- 6.4.12. All photography has been undertaken in accordance with the LI's Visual Representation of Development Proposals. All photographs presented in the figures accompanying the LVIA have been taken using:
- A high resolution digital SLR camera with a 'full frame' sensor (i.e. 36 x 24 mm) with the camera set at 1.5 m Above Ground Level (AGL);
 - A 50 mm fixed focal length (prime) lens; and
 - A professional quality tripod fitted with a panoramic head.
- 6.4.13. Accurate locations are established using a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

Viewpoint analysis

- 6.4.14. Viewpoint analysis is used to assist the design and further define the scope of the assessment. In particular, the maximum distance from the Proposed Development at which significant effects are likely to be sustained has been identified. This has been used to focus the baseline information and detailed reporting of this assessment.
- 6.4.15. The viewpoints selected for the assessment have been agreed with consultees including the relevant local authorities and NRW. The final viewpoint schedule is set out in **Table 6.8** which includes the reason for their selection and whether the viewpoints are representative, illustrative, or specific as defined in GLVIA3¹.
- 6.4.16. Visualisations have been prepared for each viewpoint to accord with SNH (now NatureScot) guidance¹³ and include 90° baseline photographs and wirelines (including cumulative wirelines where relevant), 53.5° wirelines and 53.5° and 90° photomontages in **Figures 6.15a-i to 6.34a-i**. The viewpoint assessment for each of the 20 selected viewpoints is reported in **Appendix 6K**.

6.4.17. Cumulative wind farm developments that would be visible within the CLVIA Study Area have been illustrated as wirelines and follow the baseline photographs and wirelines in **Figures 6.15a-i to 6.34a-i**.

Table 6.8 LVIA Viewpoint locations

Viewpoint (VP) Ref	Viewpoint location and grid reference	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	Viewpoint typology (GLVIA3 ¹) /principal receptors	Rationale
1	PRoW MAE/59/1 north side of Mynydd Pwll yr Iwrch 285944, 193377	1.0 km	Representative – Recreational receptors.	Representative of the view available to users of local PRoW MAE/59/1 (east of Llynfi BMX Racing Club). Requested by BCBC.
2	PRoW MAE/32/3 situated between the two sites 287468, 191420	1.1 km	Representative – Recreational receptors.	Representative of the view available to users of local PRoW MAE/32/3. Requested by BCBC.
3	Maesteg School and National Cycle Route (NCR) 885 285779, 191558	1.5 km	Representative – Residential, community and recreational receptors.	Representative of the views available to users of NCR 885, footpath users and visitors to the adjacent Maesteg School and residential receptors on the eastern extents of Maesteg. VP3 also forms a night-time viewpoint.
4	Tudor Estate, Caerau 285240, 194124	1.9 km	Representative – Residential receptors	Representative of the views available to nearby residential receptors located within Caerau village to the north of Maesteg.
5	Maesteg Town Centre (adjacent to Town Hall) 285273, 191348	2 km	Representative – Community receptors	Representative of the views available to visitors of the centre of Maesteg adjacent to the Town Hall. Requested by BCBC.
6	Heol Faen, Garth 286510, 190592	2.1 km	Representative – Residential and recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to nearby residential receptors located within Garth village to the east of Maesteg, recreational receptors visiting the small green and road users.
7	Maesteg Welfare Park 284723, 191751	2.2 km	Representative – Residential and recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to nearby residential receptors located within the western part of Maesteg and recreational receptors visiting Maesteg Welfare Park.

Viewpoint (VP) Ref	Viewpoint location and grid reference	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	Viewpoint typology (GLVIA3 ¹) /principal receptors	Rationale
8	Heol Cynan, Llangynwyd 286608, 188691	2.2 km	Representative – Residential and recreational receptors and road users	Representative of the views available to nearby residential receptors located within Llangynwyd village (south of Maesteg), recreational receptors visiting the small public open space and equipped play area and road users.
9	Pen-y-Foel Hill Summit 291902, 189556	2.5 km	Representative – Recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to walkers on open access land on the summit of Pen-y-Foel located to the east/ southeast of the Proposed Development and within the Northern Uplands SLA.
10	Y Wern, Betws 290108, 187175	2.7 km	Representative – Residential and recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to nearby residential receptors located within Betws village (south of the Proposed Development), recreational receptors visiting the small public open space and equipped play area and road users.
11	Mynydd Llangeinwyr Summit 291950, 193250	4.1 km	Representative – Recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to walkers on open access land on the summit of Mynydd Llangeinwyr located to the east/ northeast of the Proposed Development and within the Northern Uplands SLA.
12	Cistercian Way (Wales) and Bridleway LDM/17/1 283970, 188318	4.7 km	Representative – Recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to users of the Cistercian Way Long Distance path and Bridleway LDM/17/1. Viewpoint is also located to the south of Y Bwlwarcau Hillfort (SAM). Requested by BCBC.
13	Bryn Park 281333, 192430	5.4 km	Representative – Recreational receptors.	Representative of the views available to visitors to Bryn Park, Bryn Cricket Club and Bryn Welfare Bowls Club. Located to the north of Bryn village. VP13 also forms a night-time viewpoint.
14	Bryncwils Road, Sarn	6.1 km	Representative – Residential	Representative of the views available to some residents

Viewpoint (VP) Ref	Viewpoint location and grid reference	Approximate distance to nearest turbine	Viewpoint typology (GLVIA3 ¹) /principal receptors	Rationale
	290474, 183614		receptors and recreational receptors.	within Sarn village. The viewpoint also lies adjacent to a small green.
15	Gwelfor, Cefn Cribwr 285172, 182800	7.5 km	Representative – Residential receptors and recreational receptors.	Representative of the views available to some residents within Cefn Cribwr village. The viewpoint also lies adjacent to a small green. VP15 also forms a night-time viewpoint.
16	Glamorgan Ridgeway Walk 296822, 185960	8.4 km	Representative – Recreational receptors.	Representative of the views available to users of the Glamorgan Ridgeway Walk. Requested by BCBC.
17	Public open space, south of Brynna Road, Brynbryddan 277503, 192483	9.2 km	Representative – Residential receptors and recreational receptors.	Representative of the views available to nearby residential receptors located within Brynbryddan village (west of the Proposed Development), recreational receptors visiting the public open space and equipped play area and residential road users
18	Wales Coast Path, Ogmere-by -Sea 286211, 175437	14.2 km	Representative – recreational receptors.	Representative of the views available to walkers along the Wales Coast Path and open access land. The viewpoint is located within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.
19	Clyne Gardens 261211, 190512	25.6 km	Specific – recreational receptors.	Located within the Gower National Landscape and within the Clyne Castle Registered Park and Garden. This viewpoint is from a Significant View identified within the Clyne Castle Registered Park and Garden and is representative of views of visitors to the publicly accessible Clyne Gardens.
20	Craig Derlwyn, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 271773, 215373	26.9 km	Representative – recreational receptors.	Representative of views available to walkers visiting the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

6.4.18. Five additional viewpoints will be included as part of the final ES as set out in **Table 6.4** as follows:

- St Illtyd's Way on the edge of the Margam Forestry Block (approximate grid reference 283609, 191218);
- Local PRoW adjacent to the forest edge on Mynydd Emroch (approximate grid reference 279162, 190938);
- Croeserw within Tudor Park and adjacent to National Cycle Network Route 885 (approximate grid reference 286376, 195224);
- Mumbles Hill (approximate grid reference 262781, 187443); and
- Fan Gyhirych Triangulation Point (approximate grid reference 288055, 219073).

6.5 Overall baseline

Current baseline

The Site and immediate surrounding area

- 6.5.1. The Proposed Development would take place over two parcels of land, the location of which is identified below:
 - Northern Array (Pwll-yr-Lwrch) – Approximate Central Grid Reference SS 87102 92887; and
 - Southern Array (Cynhordy) – Approximate Central Grid Reference SS 88988 89854.
- 6.5.2. As illustrated in **Figure 6.4**, the Northern Array (T1 – T4) is located on the upper slopes of Mynydd Pwll-yr-Lwrch, at elevations of approximately 390m - 410m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) whilst the Southern Array (T5 - T8) is located on the slopes of Moel Cynhordy at elevations of approximately 290m – 345m AOD. The land parcels comprise a mix of semi-improved grassland, marshy grassland and heathland. The Nant Cwmdu valley is located between the two land parcels with coniferous forests located towards the upper parts of the valley and deciduous woodland in the southern part of the valley. There are also extensive coniferous forests to the north (Caerau Forest) and east (Garw Forest) of the Development Site. To the west lies the Llynfi Valley in which the town of Maesteg is located and to the east, the Garw Valley where the villages of Blaengarw and Pontycymer are located.
- 6.5.3. Access to the Development Site would be achieved via existing access tracks which serve the operational Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm and Llynfi Afan Wind Farm. Starting north at the A4061, the access tracks travel south through Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm, then cross the A4107 and travel through the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm. These access tracks are included as part of the Development Site and may require upgrading (not yet determined and will be considered in the final ES).
- 6.5.4. With regard to Public Rights of Way (PRoW), footpath MAE/4/2 adjoins the eastern boundary of the Northern Array and footpath MAE/59/1 crosses the northwestern corner of the Northern Array. Within the Southern Array, bridleway GWV/30/1 traverses the western part of the land parcel and Footpath GWV/29/1 crosses the southeastern part of the Southern Array and continues along the boundary. Footpath GWV/36/2 also runs along the northwestern part of the Southern Array. The locations of these are shown on **Figures 4.1a and 4.1b**.

- 6.5.5. There are no residential properties within the Development Site boundary however there are several residential properties within close proximity to the two land parcels. The nearest settlement is Maesteg, the outskirts of which are approximately 1 km to the west of the Northern Array and 1.5 km west of the Southern Array.

National Landscape Character

- 6.5.6. At the national scale of NRW's 48 National Landscape Character Areas²⁴ (NLCAs), the Development Site is located within NLCA 37: South Wales Valleys. This covers an extensive upland area dissected by deep, urbanised valleys. The key characteristics of this NLCA are as follows:

- *“Extensive Upland plateaux – typically wild and windswept, often with unenclosed tracts, running roughly north-south as ‘fingers’ parallel between intervening deep valleys;*
- *Numerous steep-sided valleys - typically aligned in parallel, flowing in southerly directions, shaped by southward flowing glaciers, leaving behind distinctive corrie ('cwm') and crag features. Major rivers include the Tawe, Taff and Rhymney;*
- *Ribbon urban and industrial areas in valleys – in places extending up valley sides and to valley heads. The area is sometimes regarded as being part of a ‘city region’. Middle and eastern valleys tend to be the most heavily and continuously developed, e.g., Rhondda Valley. The uplands by comparison have little or no settlement;*
- *Extensive remains of heavy industry – with a mix of derelict, preserved and largely redeveloped areas, notably for coal mining. Preserved as heritage (World heritage Site) at Blaenavon this typically includes old railway alignments, buildings and former tips;*
- *Contrast of urban valley activity next to quiet uplands – e.g. busy roads, new developments, traffic noise, night lighting, verses the adjacent wilder, remoter, quieter uplands;*
- *Large blocks of coniferous plantation and deciduous woodland fringes – covering many steep hillsides and hilltops, most notably in the middle to western portion of the area, providing a softer contemporary landscape where there was once industry;*
- *Heather, rough grassland and steep bracken slopes – dominate many plateaux and are grazed mainly by sheep. Much is common land;*
- *Improved pastures on some lower valley sides - grazed by sheep and some dairy cattle;*
- *Field boundaries - dry stone walls mark the boundary of common land while fields on lower slopes are bounded by dense hawthorn hedges, interspersed with swathes of broadleaved woodland;*
- *Transport routes restricted to valleys – the intervening topography makes valley to valley travel difficult, except at heads and bottoms of valleys. Occasionally there are roads that climb steeply over passes with dramatic views and ‘hair pin’ bends;*
- *Iconic cultural identity – many popular images of a tough, rugby-playing, religious, radically- minded society still remain associated with the South Wales Valleys, however today’s post- industrial, internet-connected reality is somewhat different.”*

- 6.5.7. The distribution of the host and other NLCAs within the LVIA Study Area is shown in 21 **Figure 6.7 National Landscape Character Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip.**

Local Landscape Character

- 6.5.8. The Landscape Character Assessment for Bridgend County Borough³⁵ identifies 15 Landscape Character Areas within Bridgend, with the Proposed Development located within LCA 3: Llynfi & Garw Uplands and Forestry. The key characteristics of this LCA are described as follows:

Topography, geology and drainage

- *“Strongly rolling upland landscape with steep slopes and rounded hill summits, reaching a maximum of 556 metres AOD at Mynydd Caerau.*
- *High land underlain by Upper Coal Measures with complex dip characteristics, forming distinctive rounded hill summits. Upper slopes draining into the Llynfi Valley comprise frequently bedded Middle Coal Measures, with some deposits of glacial boulder clay.*
- *Functions as a water catchment for the adjacent Llynfi and Garw valleys, with many fast-flowing tributaries and waterfalls carving through the landscape to meet the rivers below.*
- *Woodland cover*
- *Extensive tracts of mature larch and Norway spruce forestry on hill summits and slopes (including Garw Forest), forming prominent geometric blocks.*
- *Bands of semi-natural broadleaved woodland along streams (oak, ash and birch dominated) and field boundaries, with wind-sculpted, stunted oaks featuring on lower slopes.*
- *Agricultural land use and field patterns*
- *Apart from forestry, the main land use is rough moorland sheep grazing, with enclosed semi-improved pastures on lower slopes with areas of purple moor grass/ rush pasture.*
- *Large enclosures marked by fencing or lines of wind-sculpted trees.*
- *Semi-natural habitats*
- *Valued habitats include patches of broadleaved semi-natural woodland, marshy grassland, bog, scrub, bracken, acid grassland and heathland, with a number of locally designated SINC.*
- *Archaeology and cultural heritage*
- *Disused spoil tips, mines and quarries on hillsides are evidence of the area’s industrial past.*
- *Prehistoric round cairns crown hill summits, including a nationally important cluster on Mynydd Caerau and further examples within Garw Forest. The remains of a medieval platform house are also found on Garth Hill.*

³⁵ LUC on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (2013) *Landscape Character Assessment for Bridgend County Borough* (Online). Available at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/t4fbnxyp/landscape-character-assessment.pdf>

- *Settlement and road pattern*
- *Very sparse settlement limited to a handful of scattered farmsteads on lower slopes.*
- *The town of Maesteg lies to the west of the LCA within the Llynfi Valley, with the only road access into the landscape from the town terminating at the entrance to a former coal mining area below the Garw Forest.*
- *A large proportion of the forest is open access land, accessible by forestry access tracks and public footpaths/bridleways. There is also a significant area of open access land at Mynydd Bach.*
- *Views and perceptual qualities*
- *A strong sense of remoteness and bleakness, particularly in adverse weather conditions.*
- *Expansive, panoramic views across the county borough and beyond (Brecon Beacons to the north, Bristol Channel and Somerset to the south).*
- *Lower slopes have strong visual connections with the adjacent Llynfi and Garw valleys and their associated settlements.”*

6.5.9. BCBC's SPG 20 Renewables in the Landscape: Supplementary Planning Guidance⁹ concludes that LCA 3 would be of “High” sensitivity to “Very large” (111-150m) turbines, noting that *“Although this is a large-scale landscape, it is likely to be highly sensitive ‘very large’ clusters of wind turbines, which would remain out of scale with the underlying landform”*. The sensitive landscape characteristics of this LCA are recorded in SPG 20 as follows:

- *“The prominent, undeveloped skylines that form a backdrop to views from nearby valley settlements.*
- *Open landscape with extensive areas of traditionally grazed moorland and distinctive stunted oaks.*
- *The landscape’s role as a setting to industrial and prehistoric heritage and archaeological features, including nationally important prehistoric cairns on hill summits.*
- *The strong sense of remoteness and relative wildness.*
- *The expansive, unbroken views to both Brecon Beacons and the Bristol Channel*
- *Locally designated semi-natural habitats including broadleaved woodland, marshy grassland, bog, scrub, bracken, acid grassland and heathland.”*

6.5.10. Where applicable, the landscape attributes considered in the published landscape sensitivity assessments have informed the assessment of sensitivity for the corresponding LANDMAP Aspect Areas in **Appendix 6C**.

6.5.11. Whilst the Landscape Character Assessment for Bridgend County Borough further refines the extensive NLCAs into smaller scale landscape character units, the LVIA utilises LANDMAP Aspect Areas as the landscape character receptors, as set out in the Scoping Report (**Appendix 1A**). This approach aligns with paragraphs 6.3.20 and 6.3.21 of Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12⁴ and GN46¹² which advocates the use of LANDMAP assessments to inform development management decisions, and to avoid the double counting of effects on single area of landscape.

LANDMAP

Introduction

- 6.5.12. The selection of LANDMAP Aspect Areas to be included in the LVIA has been carried out in accordance with the methodology provided in Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46¹². The filtering process described within GN46¹² is set out in **Appendix 6B**. A landscape sensitivity assessment which considers both value and susceptibility in accordance with GLVIA3¹ is reported for each Aspect Areas included in the LVIA in **Appendix 6C**.

Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

- 6.5.13. The outcome of the filtering process recorded in **Appendix 6B** (as outlined in GN46¹²) identified nine GLAAs to be considered further in the assessment as follows:

- CYNONGL027 - Upper Rhondda Fawr – W;
- CYNONGL028 - Rhigos;
- CYNONGL033 - U Ogwr Fawr Valley;
- CYNONGL034 - U Garw Valley;
- CYNONGL035 U Llynfi valley;
- CYNONGL038 - L Garw Valley;
- CYNONGL039 - L Llynfi Valley;
- NPTGL021 - Blaengwrath; and
- NPTGL023 - Foel Fynyddau.

- 6.5.14. The location of the GLAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figure 6.8a LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip**. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C**.

Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (LHAAs)

- 6.5.15. The outcome of the filtering process recorded in **Appendix 6B** identified ten LHAAs to be considered further in the assessment as follows:

- CYNONLH004 (unnamed);
- CYNONLH005 (unnamed);
- CYNONLH007 (unnamed);
- CYNONLH012 (unnamed);
- CYNONLH054 (unnamed);
- CYNONLH057 (unnamed);
- CYNONLH058 (unnamed);
- NPTLH028 (unnamed);

- NPTLH042 (unnamed); and
- NPTLH098 (unnamed).

6.5.16. The location of the LHAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figure 6.8b LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip**. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C**.

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

6.5.17. The filtering process outlined in GN46¹² is recorded in **Appendix 6B**. The Viewpoint Analysis presented in **Appendix 6K** identified no significant visual effects beyond a distance of 8.4 km. As a consequence, and using a precautionary approach, the landscape assessment has been re-scoped to include only those VSAAs which lie within or partially within a 10k m buffer of the proposed turbines. The landscape assessment therefore considers 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.

6.5.18. The location of these VSAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figure 6.8c LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip** and **Figure 6.8d Detailed LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip**. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C**.

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

6.5.19. The outcome of filtering process outlined in GN46¹² and recorded in **Appendix 6B** identified 28 HLAAs which meet the criteria of the filtering and lie within or partially within

10 km of the proposed turbines and are therefore considered further in the landscape assessment 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.

6.5.20. **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** illustrate the location of these HLAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C**.

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAs)

- 6.5.21. The filtering process outlined in GN46¹² and recorded in **Appendix 6B** identified eight CLSAAs to be considered further in the assessment as follows:
- CYNONCLS001 - Tower Colliery;
 - CYNONCLS053 - Hirwaun Common;
 - CYNONCLS068 - St Gwynno;
 - CYNONCLS073 - Mynydd Llangeinwyr;
 - CYNONCLS099 - Garth Hill;
 - CYNONCLS100 - Garw and Caerau Forest;
 - NPTCLS059 - Mynydd y Gelli; and
 - NPTCLS122 - Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan.
- 6.5.22. The location of these CLSAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figure 6.8g LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip**. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C**.

Landscape designations

Nationally designated landscapes

- 6.5.23. The following nationally designated landscapes fall wholly or partly within the LVIA Study Area as shown on **Figure 6.9 National and local landscape designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip** (Sheets 1 to 4):
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park;
 - Gower National Landscape; and
 - Glamorgan Heritage Coast

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP)

- 6.5.24. The BBNP boundary is illustrated in **Figure 6.9** (Sheets 1 to 4) which is overlapped by the blade tip ZTV, indicating the maximum extent of theoretical visibility across the National Park. The BBNP is located at a minimum distance of approximately 15 km from the proposed turbines.
- 6.5.25. The baseline description of the Special Qualities (SQs) of the BBNP, as defined in Y Bannau The Future, A Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028 is set out in **Appendix 6I**, alongside an assessment of effects undertaken in accordance with NatureScot's Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects.
- 6.5.26. A review of the SQs concludes that the following should be included in the assessment as they relate to visual and perceptual aspects of the BBNP:
- Special Landscapes: Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty;

- Special Landscapes: Contrasting patterns, colours, and textures;
- Special Experiences: Sounds, sights, smells and tastes; and
- Special Experiences: Peace, tranquillity and dark skies.

6.5.27. There would be no effect on the SQs related to the physical characteristics of the BBNP or on those relating to culture and the community. NRW confirmed agreement with the SQs to be scoped into the LVIA in the Scoping Direction (PEDW ID.8 of **Table 6.4**).

Gower National Landscape

6.5.28. The boundary of the Gower National Landscape is illustrated in **Figure 6.9** (Sheets 1 to 4) which is overlapped by the blade tip ZTV, indicating the maximum extent of theoretical visibility across the National Landscape. The Gower National Landscape is located at a minimum distance of approximately 23.4 km from the proposed turbines.

6.5.29. The baseline description of the Special Qualities (SQs) of the Gower National Landscape, as defined in the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2017²⁸ is set out in **Appendix 6J**, alongside an assessment of effects undertaken in accordance with NatureScot's Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects¹⁹.

6.5.30. A review of the SQs concludes that the following should be included in the assessment as they relate to visual and perceptual aspects of the Gower National Landscape:

- Landscape;
- Seascape; and
- Tranquillity.

6.5.31. There would be no effect on the SQs related to the physical characteristics of the National Landscape. NRW confirmed agreement with the SQs to be scoped into the LVIA in the Scoping Direction (PEDW ID.8 of **Table 6.4**).

Glamorgan Heritage Coast

6.5.32. Heritage Coasts are sections of coastline which are 'defined' by local authorities in consultation with NRW (as opposed to designated by statute) and "*provide a management tool for balancing the requirements of conservation and access in the coastal zone*". Paragraph 6.5.12 of Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12⁴ states that "*Designation as a heritage coast does not directly affect the status of the area in planning terms, however, the features which contributed to the designation of such areas will be important considerations in development plans and in making development management decisions*".

6.5.33. The Glamorgan Heritage Coast "*stretches for 14 miles, from Aberthaw to Porthcawl with plunging cliffs, secluded coves and breathtaking views*"³⁶. Whilst there are no defined Special Qualities for the Heritage Coast, drawing from the corresponding Marine Character Area (MCA) 27 Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sands³⁷, the key characteristics of the MCA which are present within the Heritage Coast are as follows:

³⁶ <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/enjoying/Coast-and-Countryside/Heritage-Coast/Glamorgan-Heritage-Coast.aspx>

³⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2015). Marine Character Area MCA 27 Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sands (Online). Available at: https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/674505/mca-27-glamorgan-coastal-waters-and-nash-sand_final.pdf

- *“Dramatic ever-changing coastline of Jurassic and Triassic mudstones and limestone; with near vertical cliffs, shingle or rock pavement beaches, and occasional sandy bays.*
- *South and south-westerly aspect with gently shelving waters reaching a maximum of 18m bathymetry.*
- *Sections of SSSI designated coastline nationally valued for species rich neutral, calcareous and maritime grassland. Dunraven Bay SAC is home to the rare shore dock.*
- *Internationally important habitats on Methyr Mawr Warren including sand dunes and slacks, saltmarsh, limestone grasslands and swamp habitats.*
- *Long history of human occupation, with Neolithic evidence beneath Merthyr Mawr, clifftop Iron Age hillforts and the remains of medieval castles, ports and ecclesiastical sites.*
- *The iconic 19th century Nash Point Lighthouse constructed of limestone from the beach below, guides ships past Nash Sands and is a symbol of the area’s maritime heritage (the last manned lighthouse in Wales).*
- *Popular Heritage Coast-designated coastline, with the Heritage Coast Centre and Seawatch Centre drawing visitors to learn about the area’s natural, cultural and maritime heritage.*
- *Often wild qualities of the area interrupted in the east by air traffic associated with Cardiff International Airport, and the dominating form of Aberthaw Power Station.*
- *Strong intervisibility with the Somerset coastline including Exmoor National Park and the Quantocks Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).*
- *Views west along the coastline from Nash Point, including to the Gower AONB.*
- *The area’s expansive vistas are appreciated by users of the clifftop Wales Coast Path.”*

6.5.34. The published profile for NLCA 36 Vale of Glamorgan³⁸, which represents the inland component of the Heritage Coast states *“The most iconic image is that of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, where the otherwise gentle landscape comes to a very abrupt and dramatic edge, with near vertical cliffs in places, shingle or rock pavement beaches, and the occasional sandy bay to the west. From here there are long views across the Bristol Channel to Somerset and Exmoor. The coastal hinterland is typified by windblown vegetation that has resulted from the prevailing south-westerly wind exposure”*.

6.5.35. The corresponding LANDMAP VSAs and their published descriptions are set out in **Table 6.9**.

Table 6.9 LANDMAP VSAs within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast

LANDMAP VSA and description	Visually Tranquil Categories
VLFGGLVS663 Ogmere and Old Castle Downs <i>“The area consists of two downs of heath separated by Pant St Brides. The maximum elevation is approximately 102m AOD near Brynaw while the lowest is</i>	% in categories 1-5: 0 % in category 6: 1.04

³⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2014). Landscape Character Area NLCA 36 Vale of Glamorgan (Online). Available at: https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/674505/mca-27-glamorgan-coastal-waters-and-nash-sand_final.pdf

LANDMAP VSAA and description	Visually Tranquil Categories
approximately 15m AOD at Ogmore Farm. The landcover is predominantly rough grasses grazed by sheep predominantly with bracken and gorse. Mown grass fairways and greens are apparent at Ogmore golf course. There is a deciduous woodland to the west on the Ogmore Valley sides but generally the character is of an open and exposed area with long views over the Ogmore Valley and the Vale. The golf course buildings on Ogmore Down and the structures in Pant Quarry are the only built forms in the area. A minor road runs up the valley and rights of way criss cross the downs to the west although a substantial part of the area appears to be open access. Tranquillity is affected by the lorries servicing the quarry and occasional blasting. Overall the feeling of the area is wild and remote on the downs themselves. The quarry is relatively discreet but can be viewed from the east. Change detection 2014: Quarry extended and now forms separate aspect area”.	% in category 7: 32.14 % in category 8: 62.87 % in category 9: 3.94 % in category 10: 0
VLFGVLS765 Bristol Channel “Area of sea which is to an extent enclosed by Somerset/Devon and the Glamorgan coast. The area is an extension of the Severn estuary and there is a substantial amount of sediment which gives the water a grey brown appearance. It appears unclean although raw sewage outflow has been considerably reduced in recent years. Superb views across to England and Flatholm. Exposed to westerly winds. Sea highly influenced by weather and season.”	% in categories 1-5: 0 % in category 6: 0.72 % in category 7: 19.57 % in category 8: 42.75 % in category 9: 36.96 % in category 10: 0
VLFGVLS890 Heritage Coast Hinterland “The area is a rolling coastal lowland plateau sloping towards the coast with a sense of openness. It has with long views out to sea, and occasionally to Somerset. The maximum height is approximately 98m AOD near Wick and the lowest approximately 5m AOD at Cwm-Col-Huw. The landcover is a medium sized rectilinear pastoral and arable fields set within managed hedgerows and stone walls. Trees display coastal windblown characteristics. There are several small woodlands. Deciduous woodlands tend to be concentrated within small steep sided coastal valleys which are a distinctive feature of the landscape. Isolated coniferous woodlands/shelterbelts occur. There are several nucleated settlements scattered throughout the area and some isolated farms with distinctive grey limestone or whitewash. Many settlements have historical cores, but have recently developed additions to the edges, sometimes using inappropriate materials. Several minor roads cross the area and the B4265 forms much of the northern boundary, however, tranquillity is not affected as these roads carry only local traffic.”	% in categories 1-4: 0 % in category 5: 0.01 % in category 6: 2.67 % in category 7: 26.51 % in category 8: 54.3 % in category 9: 16.5 % in category 10: 0
VLFGVLS920 Glamorgan coast intertidal “The majority of the intertidal area comprises a mix of distinctive lias wave cut platforms with sandy beaches in between. The wave cut platforms are highly distinctive grey rock with rectilinear patterns and slightly inclined stepped planes with occasional rock pools. There are regular rockfalls from the adjacent cliffs which leave isolated blocks of rock in places. Rounded light grey pebbles are also scattered in groups or make round holes in the soft rock. The platforms can be viewed from above and the rock formations are very clear and create exciting forms. The rock platforms around Barry are of slightly different character and are formed from conglomerate rock which has a dull red colour and is less structured than the lias. In both rocks fossils can be seen which add interest and texture. The beaches are popular and very well used in places where access is easy such as Barry or Ogmore by Sea. Elsewhere they are sparsely used and can evoke a sense of isolation and exhilaration. The intertidal area is very exposed and open to the elements with the constant noise and smell of the sea.”	% in categories 1-4: 0 % in category 5: 0.33 % in category 6: 6.56 % in category 7: 18.62 % in category 8: 50.53 % in category 9: 23.57 % in category 10: 0.39
VLFGVLS950 Heritage Coastal Strip “Coastal cliffs which run between Cold Knap Point in the east and Ogmore-by-Sea to the west. The cliffs are high lias/limestone cliffs [50m in parts], interspersed with small, incised valleys. The lias cliffs are strongly layered and	% in categories 1-5: 0 % in category 6: 1.1 % in category 7: 14.01

LANDMAP VSAA and description	Visually Tranquil Categories
<i>form highly distinctive patterns and forms. Usually there is a narrow coastal strip of rough grass, and wind sculpted shrubs, subject to erosion on the cliff top. In places this extends over a wider area such as where there are the remains of ancient fortifications, lighthouse or settlement as such as at Nash Point or Southerndown respectively. There are superb views along the coast and across the Bristol Channel to Somerset/Devon and the area feels open and exposed. There is a cliff top footpath in places and also occasional car parks on the cliff tops or the back of the beach. These affect the unspoilt character to an extent but are generally fairly low key. Overall, with the wavecut platforms and beaches, views across the Bristol Channel and the backcloth of plateau and incised valleys the area is a superb landscape."</i>	% in category 8: 70.33 % in category 9: 14.56 % in category 10: 0
CYNONVS304 Newton Point "Rock platform area with views out to sea /along coast and inland to urban area. Mixed qualities due to this polarised setting."	% in categories 1-5: 0 % in category 6: 0.95 % in category 7: 41.9 % in category 8: 51.43 % in category 9: 5.71 % in category 10: 0
CYNONVS987 Merthyr-mawr Warren "A unique landscape of sand dunes bordered to the east by a wooded valley. Small groups of trees within the dunes themselves together with sea buckthorn create numerous intimate spaces. Broad views out to the wider landscape including coastal reaches, urban edge of Porthcawl and rural hinterland. Recent housing on western edge has reduced aspect area at change detection".	% in categories 1-5: 0 % in category 6: 0.13 % in category 7: 5.71 % in category 8: 77.23 % in category 9: 16.93 % in category 10: 0
CYNONVS920 Kenfig Sands "Sandy beach with views out to sea and inland to dunes. Strong coastal sense of place, heightened by the partial views to north over Margam Moors that encompass the industrial works".	% in categories 1-5: 0 % in category 6: 5.11 % in category 7: 17.57 % in category 8: 66.18 % in category 9: 11.15 % in category 10: 0

Locally designated landscapes

- 6.5.36. A number of locally designated landscapes (Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)) are entirely or partly located within 10 km of the proposed turbines and those which coincide with the blade tip ZTVs and have been scoped into the LVIA (**Section 6.7**) are set out in **Table 6.10**. This includes a description of the landscape qualities and features and any management policies as derived from the published data sources included in **Table 6.6**. The locations of these areas are shown on **Figure 6.9** (Sheets 1 to 4) in relation to the blade tip ZTV for the Proposed Development.

Table 6.10 Landscape qualities and features of the local landscape designations scoped into the LVIA

Local landscape designation	Description
Bridgend SLAs	
Foel y Dyffryn SLA	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are recorded as follows:

Local landscape designation	Description
Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP 4	<i>"A relatively small area of distinctive upland landscape to the west of Dyffryn and Caerau it provides a visual backdrop to the setting of the urban area along the valley floor. Generally north-east facing, the uplands range from 120m to 350 AOD. Its upland qualities and character are further reinforced by borrowed views to the Brecon Beacons to the north.</i> <i>Its vegetation cover is typically rough grassland, mainly upland heath, interspersed with wetland and boggy areas which are local Biodiversity Action Plan target habitats. It also includes populations of marsh fritillary butterfly.</i> <i>The proximity to the urban edge of its eastern boundaries introduces visual and sensory detractors and is typified by a range of urban fringe management issues – fly tipping, illegal biking, conflict with landowners and farmers"</i>³⁰.
Northern Uplands SLA Viewpoints located within the SLA: VPs 9 and 11	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of the Northern Uplands SLA are recorded as follows: <i>"An open upland ridge landscape lying between approximately 250m and 550m AOD. The western half of the SLA consists of unenclosed uplands with easterly (in Ogmoredale Valley) and westerly (in Garw Valley) facing slopes of relatively narrow valleys, with boundaries of urban/rural interface on lower valley slopes. The Upper Ogmoredale Valley exhibits the classic characteristics of glaciation, namely a U-shaped valley which is interspersed with minor truncated spurs and small hanging side valleys.</i> <i>The busy A4064 that follows the river course along the Afon Garw floor is a slight visual and sensory detractor due to noise and movement of traffic. Panoramic and sometimes dramatic views over upland and adjoining valleys. The eastern half of the SLA has steep westerly facing slopes of the quite narrow valley (Ogmoredale), with views across the urban area (Ogmoredale Vale, Pricetown) on the valley floor with which it has an urban/rural interface. Attractive upland views within and out over Ogmoredale Vale and to other upland areas that survive largely intact and unaffected by modern afforestation. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. Some visual clutter of pylons slightly detracts from this otherwise wild/exposed typical upland area with a strong sense of place. Not remote as close to valleys and their associated urban areas.</i> <i>Predominant land cover of rough grazing and bracken, rock outcrops to the east and with some old stone walls. With acid grassland, heath and internationally important blanket bog habitats and including Cwm Cyffog SSSI. Lower Ogmoredale Valley includes some patchy broadleaved woodland and at Ogmoredale Vale the Aber Woods"</i>³⁰.
Western Uplands SLA Viewpoints located within the SLA: VPs 8 and 12	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are recorded as follows: <i>"A fairly extensive upland area abutting Neath Port Talbot in the west. It comprises a series of north eastern facing slopes, ranging from 120m to 350m AOD, typically rough grazing. It has a number of plantations and small woodlands that contribute to the overall character and quality of the area reflected in a number of the LANDMAP</i>

Local landscape designation	Description
	<i>aspect area evaluations – VS473 – Mynydd Baedan (High), LH009 – riparian woodland (High) part of Parc Slip (CL019) (High).</i> <i>The geography of the landscape is typical of much of the area, showing evidence of glaciation – classic u-shaped valley with truncated side valleys. Despite the presence of coal measures and other stone quarrying the area retains a largely rural, agricultural character.</i> <i>Important historic and cultural associations reflected in landscape archaeology including the settlement of Llangynwyd and its hinterland largely important, despite proximity of industrial towns it retains a distinct rural form and character.</i> <i>The main visual detractors relate to the interface of the SLA with the southern edge of Maesteg, Pont Rhyd-y-cyff, Aberkenfig and Cwmfelin”³⁰.</i>
Bryngarw Country Park SLA	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are recorded as follows: <i>“A small distinct area based upon the grounds and associated woodlands of Bryngarw House. An early Tudor house this has been modified at various times and the ornamental gardens – a mixture of ponds, ornamental and natural planting were laid out between 1910 and 1918. The site is included in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The area is now managed as a Country Park by the County Borough Council. The proposed SLA area extends beyond the historic park boundaries to include a range of areas of high habitat value. This includes a range of riparian woodlands, some designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest”³⁰.</i>
Mynydd y Gaer SLA Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP 16	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of the Mynydd y Gaer SLA are as follows: <i>“Undulating ridge line landform running east to west up to the attractive upland landscape associated with Mynydd y Gaer some 300 metres AOD. In land use terms it includes the interface between the open uplands and the bounded fields of the lower lying agricultural landscapes. These are often defined by hedgerows with trees. The southern edge of this scarp is dissected by a series of steep sided cwms, such as Cwm Crymlyn, Cwm Llwyd and Nant Ton-y-groes.</i> <i>Limited areas of woodland or small spinneys although the north western edge of the SLA includes the wooded slopes of Allt y Rhiw, which is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Natura 2000 programme, together with Coedtal-y-fan on the western side of the Ogmere Valley which runs down into the Ogmere</i> <i>Valley and the conifer plantations to the west of Gelli-feddgaer. Higher ground is open and exposed which is reflected in the sensory qualities of the area. Its level of exposure is reflected by the presence of the windfarm at Mynydd Hugh, which introduces a visual detractor to the area.</i> <i>The SLA is traversed by the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk, as well as a range of other footpaths. Along the edge of the SLA, the A4061, B4280 and A4093 roads introduce visual and sensory detractors”³⁰.</i>

Local landscape designation	Description
Laleston SLA	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are recorded as follows: <i>“A distinctive plateau area rising to 100 metres AOD to the west of Bridgend. It is an area of mixed farmland with fields enclosed by hedgerow boundaries. It includes the Cefn Cribwr Grasslands SAC. The area is dissected by the M48 motorway, A48(T) road and the Swansea-Paddington railway line which create local corridors of visual and sensory detraction. The underlying geology is of national value and is reflected in the designation of a SSSI, where non-conforming deposits are visible through quarrying. Its western boundary abuts the former Newton Down airfield which is used for karting and has a number of industrial units dispersed across the area. These provide further local zones of visual and sensory detraction. The southern boundary abuts the village of Tythegston and includes the house and parkland of Tythegston Court, together with the wider landscape that forms its essential setting. The house is listed (Grade II), and the whole feature stretches back to the medieval period, with the current house and park showing primarily eighteenth century features with additions to the parkland gardens to the Edwardian period. The site is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales”³⁰.</i>
Neath Port Talbot SLAs	
Margam SLA	The Features and Characteristics of this SLA are recorded as follows: <i>“Mynydd Margam is a broad, low lying plateau of NE dipping Productive Coal Formation mudstones and coals between South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment and E-W Millstone Grit ridge to the South, dissected by shallow, alluvium filled valleys of tributaries and the main Cynfig valley. It includes mine workings and the proposed deep mine.</i> <i>Cultural features in the landscape include evidence of prehistoric and later agricultural practices, rural settlements and contemporary forestry activities.</i> <i>It is an evolved landscape containing multi-period cultural expressions untrammelled by industrial exploitation - extensive archaeological evidence of land husbandry, now given over to forestry interspersed with some small farms and thus is a comparatively rare example of a surviving relict landscape.</i> <i>The SLA, which contains Margam Park, with its exceptional examples of architecture; its history as a major Cistercian Abbey and the wider monastic landholdings, provides a combination of high grade historic visitor attraction and a variety of multi-period pleasure grounds. It contains cultural elements dating from pre-history through every period up to the 21st century.</i> <i>Whilst the SLA contains areas of forested upland these are important to the overall historical context of the area and could be managed to enhance the landscape quality of the wider area.</i> <i>The scenic quality of the area is enhanced by the historic buildings of the Park and the backdrop of scarp creating a sheltered setting which link visually and provide the integrity of the whole. The sense of place for the park is initially prompted with boundary walls and entrance gates. The historic core and deer park make this area unique within the County”³².</i>

Local landscape designation	Description
	The more recent Replacement Local Development Plan 2023-2038 Special Landscape Areas document notes that “Within recent years planning permission has been granted for the development of a solar farm and windfarm and these are considered to have an effect on the SLA”³¹.
Mynydd Y Gelli SLA	The Features and Characteristics of Mynydd Y Gelli SLA are as follows: <i>“The landform of Mynydd y Gelli is a coherent landscape element and relates to the Western Uplands Bridgend SLA which includes the adjacent Mynydd Llangeinwyr. Similar to Foel Trawsnant it forms an open exposed plateau area within the eastern highlands complex. The landform and topography creates an imposing presence and with its simple land cover provides a contrast to the more complex landscapes of surrounding areas. The open remote plateau has a sense of exposure and wilderness in contrast with the adjacent Afan valley. It is unspoilt by development or land use and has a coherent distinct character, with topographical and visual unity, high scenic quality and strong sense of place”³².</i>
Foel Trawsnant SLA	The Features and Characteristics of this SLA are recorded as follows: <i>“SLA covers the steep, exposed, upland slopes in NE-SW striking N and NE dipping sandstones and coals of the South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi-Brithdir Beds (Lower Pennant Measures). It forms part of the eastern highlands complex and is one location within the relict landscape of mixed periods which is not covered in conifer plantations. There is no development and the area feels exposed and bleak, access is via foot and bridle paths. The simple landscape features and pattern, upland grazing to 271m AOD creates a local sense of place and distinctiveness”³².</i> The more recent Replacement Local Development Plan 2023-2038 Special Landscape Areas document notes that “Planning permission has however recently been granted for the development of 11 wind turbines. These have been implemented and are considered to have an impact upon the SLA”³¹.
Rhondda Cynon Taff SLA	
Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest SLA	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are recorded as follows: <i>“Prominent ridge of hills with extensive rounded tops, with forestry to the east, forming part of the east/west ridge that marks the border between Vale and Valleys. Series of small more enclosed valleys to north and south. Historic features of Beacons and ruined church on ridge top. The windfarm is prominent feature on the skyline from both north and south. This ridge forms an important skyline feature from M4, and Vale of Glamorgan. Ridgeway walk passes west/east through area. There are extensive and varied views from the ridge, over the Vale of Glamorgan and Bristol Channel to the south and over the coalfield plateau to the north.</i>

Local landscape designation	Description
	<i>Llantrisant Forest of historic interest as first Forestry Commission forest in Wales, with attractive age/species structure, popular for biking and walking.</i> <i>Most of remainder of area is fields with hedges, with improved grassland on upper slopes and some rhos pasture on the northern slopes and valleys.</i> <i>No roads through</i> <i>Primary habitats relating to un-improved marshy grassland and rhos pasture, mainly in northern slopes and basins.</i> <i>Series of tips and reclaimed land in southern small valleys, becoming wooded.</i> <i>Llanharan House and grounds in the south are part of attractive lower slopes</i>³³.

Visual baseline

6.5.37. The visual assessment draws upon the visual receptor baseline informed by the ZTVs, desk study, field survey and viewpoint analysis. The detailed analysis of viewpoints is used to guide the assessment of visual receptors³⁹. The baseline establishes the receptors that are scoped into the assessment, and taken forward to the assessment stage, where the potential effects on views and visual amenity likely to be experienced by receptors (people) within the Study Area are assessed in the following groups:

- Views from settlements;
- Views experienced whilst travelling through the landscape by road users, walkers, horse riders and cyclists for example; and
- Views from tourist and recreational destinations.

Visual receptors: settlements

6.5.38. The assessment of visual effects likely to be experienced from settlements/ communities includes consideration of residential areas, the public realm, and public open spaces within the settlement boundaries that would be frequented by people.

6.5.39. For people in their communities, the LVIA Study Area exhibits the broad settlement pattern that is present across much of 'the Valleys' area of south Wales. This pattern is of periodic dense settlements on some sections of valley bottom or lower valley sides but limited settlement in more elevated areas. Often, individual valley floor settlements can amalgamate with one another to result in a continuous area of settlement extending along several kilometres of a valley and/ or into side valleys.

6.5.40. Settlements⁴⁰ within 10 km of the proposed turbines that are overlapped in full or part by the ZTV are as follows:

³⁹ IEMA Quality Mark Article. Use of Viewpoint Analysis as a tool in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). (2016).

⁴⁰ Settlements are defined as those areas identified by the Settlement Boundary on Local Plan Proposals Maps.

Bridgend County Borough Council:

- Maesteg (Caerau, Dyffryn, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg Town Centre, Glanllynfi, Garth and Cwmfelin);
- Llangynwyd;
- Pont Rhyd-y-cyff;
- Bettws;
- Llangeinor
- Coytrahen;
- Valleys Gateway (Tondy, Aberkenfig, Sarn, Bryncethin and Brynmenyn);
- Bridgend (Bryntirion, Cefn Glas, Wildmill, Litchard, Pendre, Bridgend Town Centre, Derwen and Brackla); Laleston
- Pen-y-fai;Coity;
- Glynogwr;
- Pontycymer and Blaengarw;
- Pont-y-rhyl;
- Cefin Cribwr; and
- Kenfig Hill/Pyle/North Cornelly.

Neath Port Talbot Council:

- Croeserw;
- Cwmafan and Brynbryddan;
- Bryn; and
- Goytre;

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:

- Gilfach Goch and Hendreforgan.

- 6.5.41. It should be noted that views from residential properties which lie outside of the settlements (as defined by the relevant Local Plan Settlement Boundaries) and within 2 km of the proposed turbines will be considered as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), which will be set out in **Appendix 6M** of the Final ES. The assessment methodology used in the RVAA is set out in **Appendix 6A**. The location of individual or small groups of residential properties within 2 km of the proposed turbines are illustrated in **Figure 6.13 Residential Properties within 2km (Blade Tip ZTV)** and **Figure 6.14 Residential Properties within 2km (Hub Height ZTV)**.

Visual receptors: Recreational routes and destinations

- 6.5.42. The LVIA Study Area includes a wide range of visual receptors undertaking outdoor recreational activities where the availability of views and their composition are likely to contribute to receptors' enjoyment of their activity. Recreational receptors within the blade tip ZTV have been identified under the following categories:
- Sustrans National Cycle Routes;
 - Designated long-distance footpaths;
 - Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and Access Land; and
 - Outdoor Recreational Facilities, Historic Parks and Gardens and Country Parks.
- 6.5.43. The Viewpoint Assessment presented in **Appendix 6K** identified no significant visual effects beyond a distance of 8.4 km. As a consequence, the visual assessment has focussed on all receptors within 10 km of the proposed turbines. However, national level

receptors such as National Trails and Sustrans National Cycle Routes are included within the 28 km LVIA Study Area, as a precaution.

Sustrans National Cycle Routes

6.5.44. National Cycle Network (NCN) routes within the LVIA Study Area that are overlapped by the ZTV are shown in **Figure 6.9** (Sheets 1 to 4) and listed as follows:

- NCN Route 4: This is a long-distance 697.8 km route linking London and Fishguard. Within 10 km of the proposed turbines, the route passes through the settlements of Kenfig Hill and Bridgend and continues north-east through the Ogmore Valley and Ogwr Fach Valley, at a minimum distance of 5 km to the south of the proposed turbines.
- NCN Route 47: This cycle route is 195 km in length and runs from Newport to Fishguard, forming part of the Celtic Trail West which runs from Chepstow to Pembrokeshire. Within 10 km of the proposed turbines NCN Route 47 passes east of Tonnau through Plenna Forest and north of Glynccorrwg at a minimum distance of 6.5 km to the north-north-west.
- NCN Route 884: This 9.2 km traffic-free route starts at the Bryngarw Country Park and finishes at Blaengarw at a minimum of 2.5 km to the east of the proposed turbines
- NCN Route 885: This route, once fully open, will connect Bridgend and Afan Forest Park. A section within Bridgend is currently open, heading north from Brewery Field to meet NCN Route 4 at Tondur. A section of Route 885 is also open between Maesteg and Cymmer, where it meets NCN Route 887. This section follows the eastern edge of Maesteg, at a minimum distance of 1.2 km to the west of the proposed turbines.
- NCN Route 887: This 29.5 km cycle route provides a link between the towns of Port Talbot, Cwmafan, and Pontrhydyfen, before continuing on to the Afan Forest Park. Within 10 km of the proposed turbines, the route travels along the Afan Valley passing through the settlements of Cwmafan, Cymmer and Glynccorrwg at a minimum distance of 3.1 km to the north-north-west.

Designated long-distance footpaths

6.5.45. The Wales Coast Path is a 1,400 km nationally promoted footpath around the coastline of Wales. Of the eight sections listed on the dedicated website⁴¹, the 157 km Section 8 South Wales Coast & Severn Estuary passes through the LVIA Study Area as illustrated on **Figure 6.9** (Sheets 1-4), at a distance of approximately 12.2 km from the Proposed Development.

6.5.46. A number of regionally promoted long-distance footpaths also pass through the LVIA Study Area as shown on **Figure 6.9** (Sheets 1-4). Those within 10 km of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the ZTV are listed as follows:

- Bridgend Circular Walk;
- Celtic Way;
- Cistercian Way (Wales);
- Coed Morgannwg Way;

⁴¹ <https://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/working-with-us/about-the-path/?lang=en>

- Glamorgan Ridgeway Walk;
- Ogwr Ridgeway Walk / Taith Fford Las Ogwr;
- Sky to Sea: Over the Bwlch;
- Sky to Sea: Through the Vale; and
- St Illtyd's Walk.

Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and Open Access Land

6.5.47. Open Access Land within 10 km of the Proposed Development that is overlapped by the ZTV is shown in **Figure 6.11** along with the dense network of local PRoW and are assessed under the following groups:

- Open Access Land and PRoW within 5 km of proposed turbines;
- Open Access Land and PRoW between 5 km-10 km of the proposed turbines; and
- Notable hill summits and Open Access Land within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (beyond 10 km).

Outdoor Recreational Facilities, Historic Parks and Gardens and Country Parks

6.5.48. Recreational and tourist / visitor attractions relevant to the LVIA include those features that appear as prominent landmarks or landscape features, and locations associated with passive recreation such as walking, where there is a clear relationship between the feature / destination and an appreciation of the landscape. Historic Parks and Gardens are included where these are open to the public, as well as National Trust gardens / land and Cadw visitor sites which are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV. Some of these locations are also referred to in the **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** and **Chapter 15: Socio-economics**. The assessment excludes locations for team sports and other recreational / tourist destinations where the focus of activity is not on the landscape or is indoors – for example museums, libraries, and gift shops.

Historic Parks and Gardens (open to the public):

- Bryngarw Country Park;
- Glanrhyd Hospital; and
- Coytrahen House.
- Cadw Visitor Sites:
- Newcastle Castle.

Visual receptors: transport routes

- 6.5.49. The transportation network of 'A' and 'B' roads is mainly routed along valley floors and lower sides of the valleys. Consequently, vehicular receptors' journeys are often routed through extensive areas of built development with limited availability of outward views.
- 6.5.50. Transport routes within 10 km of the proposed turbines and that are overlapped by the ZTV are listed as follows:

- M4;
- A48;
- A4061
- A4063;
- A4064;
- A4065;
- A4093;
- A4107;
- A473;
- B4280;
- B4281; and
- B4282.

Future baseline

- 6.5.51. The Proposed Development would cover a period of approximately 32 years (including construction, operation and decommissioning). The approximate time periods associated with the Proposed Development, and whether they are predominantly long-term or short-term are listed as follows:
- Construction: up to 22 months (short-term);
 - Operation: up to 30 years (long-term and reversible); and
 - Decommissioning: up to 6 months (short-term).
- 6.5.52. The LVIA also recognises that some elements of the Proposed Development such as access tracks would be permanent and remain beyond the construction and decommissioning period, although access tracks may re-vegetate over time if left unused. Although 'long-term', the operation period of up to 30 years is assessed as though it were permanent, whilst noting that the effects of the proposed turbines would be reversible once decommissioned.
- 6.5.53. The LVIA considers that during this period of 32 years, the predicted future baseline and evolution of landscape and visual receptors is unlikely to change significantly under the current regime of landscape and forestry management and maintenance. However, land management, and consequently landscape character, is dependent on a number of economic and environmental factors including the future effects of climate change and human adaptation which are difficult to predict at a local level and not a matter for this assessment. It is however likely that mitigation and adaptation in response to changing climate and biodiversity pressures will continue to have an influence on this area in the form of increased renewable energy and other environmental changes which are likely to alter the landscape baseline as follows:
- Change resulting from an increased reliance on renewable energy, including wind farm development; and
 - Change to current levels of forestry and woodland. Many of the large blocks of forestry that are a conspicuous landscape feature across parts of the LVIA Study Area are coniferous. They are therefore likely to be felled as crops at some point with localised landscape consequences including changes to the nature of views available to some visual receptors within the LVIA Study Area.

6.6 Embedded measures

- 6.6.1. The iterative design of the Proposed Development is detailed within **Chapter 3: Need, Alternatives and Iterative Design** with a full project description including the associated infrastructure detailed in **Chapter 4: Development Description**. The design has evolved through consideration of a range of environmental and technical constraints in line with Section 4.1 of Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales²¹ which states “*The construction*

of large-scale wind and solar energy installations should result from a thorough, multidisciplinary site selection and design process". From a landscape perspective, the aim has been to consider the appearance of the wind farm as an object or composition in the landscape, made up of a grid of four wind turbines, within two separate groupings.

- 6.6.2. As set out in the Planning Statement and **Chapter 5: Legislation and policy overview**, the proposed wind farm would be located within Pre-Assessed Area 9 in Future Wales - The National Plan 2040⁷. The Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy, identified in Future Wales, are the areas that are considered most appropriate for large scale wind farm development.
- 6.6.3. A range of environmental measures have been embedded into the Proposed Development as outlined in the **Chapter 4: Development Description. Table 6.11** outlines how these embedded measures will influence the LVIA.

Table 6.11 Summary of the embedded environmental measures

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Embedded measures	Compliance mechanism
Construction			
Grassland	Loss of grassland habitat within the Site has the potential to affect landscape character and visual amenity of visual receptors located close to the Site.	Some instances of habitat loss would be temporary and reinstated post-construction within working areas and temporary construction compounds. Existing Forestry access points, roads and tracks have been used where possible to minimise vegetation loss.	CEMP and Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (HMP) secured via DNS condition.
Operation			
Landscape and visual receptors located close to the Proposed Development	Changes to local landscape character and close distance views of ancillary infrastructure.	The single storey substation building would be traditional blockwork construction and faced in stone with a slate roof. Associated fencing would be either moorland green/brown or dark grey in order to blend with either the existing landscape colours or traditional building colours for the area.	DNS planning condition.
All landscape and visual receptors within the LVIA Study Area	The visual apparency of the turbines and consequent impact upon landscape and visual receptors will be influenced by the colour of the blades, nacelle, and tower.	The turbine rotors and upper towers will be largely visible against the sky and therefore a non-reflective pale grey colour (e.g., RAL 7035) will be selected to minimise contrast.	DNS planning condition.

6.7 Scope of the assessment

The Proposed Development

- 6.7.1. All aspects of the Proposed Development will be considered in the LVIA (see **Chapter 4: Development Description** for further details).

Spatial Scope

- 6.7.2. The spatial scope of the assessment of landscape and visual effects covers the area of the Proposed Development contained within the application boundary, together with the 28 km LVIA Study Area, as defined in accordance with GN46¹². The cumulative assessment also covers a 28 km radius Study Area.
- 6.7.3. The ZTV analysis is used to refine the LVIA's spatial scope and to indicate the areas from where it may be theoretically possible to view all or some of the proposed blade tips and nacelles (hub heights) of one or more of the eight proposed turbines. Details of the method used to produce the ZTVs is provided in **Appendix 6A**.
- 6.7.4. **Figures 6.2 to 6.5** show the ZTVs that have been calculated to show the area of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines based on the three-turbine layout and a candidate wind turbine with a blade tip height of 180 m and hub height of 105 m.

Temporal Scope

- 6.7.5. The temporal scope of the assessment of landscape and visual effects is consistent with the period over which the Proposed Development would be carried out and therefore covers the following periods:
- A construction phase with a duration of approximately 22-months;
 - A 30-year operational phase; and
 - The 6-month decommissioning phase.
- 6.7.6. A Night-time assessment which considers of the landscape, visual and cumulative effects of the aviation warning lights will be included as part of the Final ES. This will be undertaken in accordance with the Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment.

Potential Receptors

- 6.7.7. The principal landscape and visual receptors that have been identified as being potentially subject to effects are summarised in **Table 6.12**

Table 6.12 Landscape and visual receptors subject to potential effects

Receptor	Reason for consideration
Landscape receptors	
LANDMAP VSAs, HLAs, GLAs, LHAs and CLSAs filtered into the assessment.	The LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward to the detailed assessment are derived from the process outlined in GN46 ¹² which

Receptor	Reason for consideration
	intends to focus the detailed assessment on the potentially sensitive aspect areas most likely to be affected.
Nationally (statutory) designated landscapes and their special qualities: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and Gower National Landscape	The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and Gower National Landscape, occurring within the ZTV for the Proposed Development, are landscapes of national importance and high sensitivity.
Nationally defined landscapes: Glamorgan Heritage Coast	The Glamorgan Heritage Coast, occurring within the ZTV for the Proposed Development, is a landscape of national importance and high sensitivity.
Locally designated landscapes entirely or partly located within 10 km of the proposed turbines and within the blade tip ZTV	Locally designated landscapes (and the landscape qualities and features for which they are designated) are of local (county level) importance.
Visual receptors	
Residential visual receptors in their communities within the LVIA Study Area and blade tip ZTV	Typically, high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Residential visual receptors at private residences within 2 km of the proposed turbines and within the blade tip ZTV.	High sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for adverse effects upon residential visual amenity.
Recreational receptors using sections of Sustrans NCNs Routes within the LVIA Study Area and blade tip ZTV.	Typically, high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Recreational receptors using promoted and long-distance routes within the LVIA Study Area and blade tip ZTV.	Typically, high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Recreational receptors using Open Access Land and local PROWs within the blade tip ZTV (where not included in other categories)	Typically, high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Recreational receptors at visitor attractions such as Country Parks and publicly accessible CADW sites within the LVIA Study Area and blade tip ZTV.	Typically, high or medium sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Vehicular receptors travelling along 'A' and 'B' roads and any promoted tourist routes within the LVIA Study Area and blade tip ZTV.	Typically, medium or low sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity affecting large numbers of people.

Likely significant effects

- 6.7.8. The effects on landscape and visual receptors which have the potential to be significant and have been taken forward for detailed assessment are summarised in **Table 6.13**.
- 6.7.9. The final scope of the assessment has been guided by the analysis of the Viewpoint Assessment provided in **Appendix 6K**. This analysis sets a distance threshold for likely significant effects and indicates that significant effects are unlikely to occur at distances beyond 8.4 km, even for high sensitivity receptors. As a consequence, a conservative

buffer of 10 km from the turbine locations has been applied and receptors of local or regional importance have been considered within this 10 km buffer.

Table 6.13 Summary of effects scoped in for further assessment

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
Landscape receptors	
LANDMAP VSAAAs, HLAAs, GLAAs, LHAAs and CLAAs As derived from the filtering process set out in Appendix 6B and which lie within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9).	Construction phase: - Direct localised effects on parts of the host Aspect Areas' landscape character and landscape elements as a consequence of the site preparation and construction of associated infrastructure (tracks, control buildings / sub-stations, contractors' facilities, site access and electrical cabling) may be significant. Construction, operational and decommissioning phases: - Direct effects on the host Aspect Areas' landscape character and potentially landscape elements as a consequence of turbine erection and operation are likely to be significant. - Indirect effects related to the presence and movement of the turbines and their effect on visual and perceptual characteristics have the potential to be significant.
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	Construction, operational and decommissioning phases: The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park is located at a separation distance of approximately 14.95 km from the proposed turbines. On the basis that this is a nationally designated landscape of high value, indirect effects upon its special qualities as a as a consequence of the presence and movement of the turbines have the potential to be significant.
Gower National Landscape	Construction, operational and decommissioning phases: The Gower National Landscape is located at a separation distance of approximately 23.4 km from the proposed turbines. On the basis that this is a nationally designated landscape of high value, indirect effects upon its special qualities as a as a consequence of the presence and movement of the turbines have the potential to be significant.
Glamorgan Heritage Coast	Construction, operational and decommissioning phases: The Glamorgan Heritage Coast is located at a separation distance of approximately 11.8 km from the proposed turbines. On the basis that this is a nationally defined landscape of high value, indirect effects upon its landscape and seascape character as a consequence of the presence and movement of the turbines have the potential to be significant.
Bridgend SLAs entirely or partially within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9): - Foel y Dyffryn SLA; - Northern Uplands SLA; - Western Uplands SLA; - Bryngarw Country Park SLA; - Mynydd y Gaer SLA; and - Laleston SLA.	Construction, operational and decommissioning phases: Indirect effects upon six BCBC SLAs (and the primary landscape qualities and features for which they have been designated), as a consequence of the presence and movement of the turbines may be significant.

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
Neath Port Talbot SLAs entirely or partially within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9): • Margam SLA; • Mynydd Y Gelli SLA; and • Foel Trawsnant SLA.	Construction, operational and decommissioning phases: Indirect effects upon three NPTC SLAs (and the qualities and features for which they have been designated), as a consequence of the presence and movement of the turbines may be significant.
Rhondda Cynon Taff SLAs entirely or partially within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9): • Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest SLA.	Construction, operational and decommissioning phases: Indirect effects upon a single RCTCBC SLA (and the primary landscape qualities and features for which it has been designated), as a consequence of the presence and movement of the turbines may be significant.
Visual receptors	
Residential receptors in the closest properties (within 2 km of proposed turbines and the blade height ZTV).	Construction and decommissioning phases: • Effects on views and visual amenity within 2km where potential visibility of the proposed construction activities include site preparation and construction of associated infrastructure (tracks, control buildings / sub-stations, contractors' facilities, site access and electrical cabling); • Effects on views and visual amenity from the erection of the wind turbines; and • Effects on views and visual amenity from the decommissioning of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure. Operational phase: • Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines (and proposed grid connection on wooden poles where visible).
Residential receptors in communities within the blade tip ZTV and within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9).	Operational phase: • Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines (and proposed grid connection on wooden poles where visible).
Recreational receptors using National Cycle Network routes within the blade tip ZTV and within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9).	Operational phase: • Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines (and proposed grid connection on wooden poles where visible).
Recreational receptors using nationally promoted footpath routes within the blade tip ZTV and the LVIA Study Area and regionally promoted recreational routes within the blade tip ZTV and within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9).	Operational phase: • Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines (and proposed grid connection on wooden poles where visible).
Recreational receptors at visitor attractions and destinations within the blade tip ZTV and within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9).	Operational phase: • Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines (and proposed grid connection on wooden poles where visible).
Recreational receptors using Open Access Land, local PRoWs and at	Operational phase:

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
popular summits within the blade tip ZTV and LVIA Study Area (where not included in other categories): - Open Access Land and local PRowS within 5 km of the proposed turbines; - Open Access Land and local PRowS between 5 km-10 km the proposed turbines; and - Notable hill summits and Open Access Land within the BBNP (beyond 10 km).	Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines (and proposed grid connection on wooden poles where visible).
Vehicular receptors travelling along 'A' and 'B' roads and any promoted tourist routes within the blade tip ZTV and within 10 km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.9).	Operational phase: Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines (and proposed grid connection on wooden poles where visible).

6.7.10. The receptors/ effects detailed in **Table 6.14** have been scoped out from further assessment because the potential effects are considered unlikely to be significant.

Table 6.14 Summary of effects scoped out of the LVIA

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
All landscape and visual receptors that lie outside of the blade tip ZTV.	All receptors within the LVIA Study Area that do not coincide with the blade tip ZTV would have no view of the Proposed Development and are scoped out.
National Landscape Character Areas.	Whilst NLCAs provide landscape context, they are too extensive and generalised to potentially experience significant landscape effects. This approach is advocated by paragraph 5.14 of GLVIA3 ¹ and the smaller landscape character units, as represented by the LANDMAP Aspect Areas are to be taken forward as receptors in the LVIA.
All LANDMAP Aspect Areas that do not fulfil the criteria set out in GN46 ¹² and are beyond 10 km from the proposed turbines.	The filtering process set out within GN46 ¹² intends to focus the detailed assessment of potentially sensitive landscape and visual receptors on the aspect areas most likely to be affected. The viewpoint analysis in Appendix 6K indicates that significant visual effects are not anticipated beyond a distance of 10 km from the turbines.
BBNP SQs relating to Special Communities: An intimate sense of community, Special Communities: A Sense of place and cultural identity, Special Experiences: Enjoyable and accessible, Special Experiences: Sense of discovery, Special Nature: Mosaic of Diversity and Special Nature: Living Landscape.	These SQs relate to physical, cultural and community characteristics which would not be significantly affected by the Proposed Development, which is located well outside of the BBNP boundary.
Gower National Landscape SQs relating to Biodiversity, Geology, Archaeology, Historic Landscapes, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic	These SQs relate to physical, cultural and community characteristics which would not be significantly affected by the Proposed Development, which is located well outside of the Gower National Landscape boundary.

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
Buildings and Conservation Areas, Air Quality, Water Quality, Soil Quality, Public Rights of Way, Access Land and Beaches.	
Local/ regional receptors beyond 10 km distance from the proposed turbines, including local landscape designations, LANDMAP Aspect Areas and all visual receptors, with the exception of users of the Wales Coast Path which is a nationally promoted route.	The viewpoint analysis in Appendix 6K indicates that significant visual effects are not anticipated beyond a distance of 10 km from the turbines.
Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest (including the Margam Mountain and The Rhondda Registered Landscapes of Special Interest).	An assessment of effects on Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest will be undertaken by a cultural heritage or historic environment specialist where significant effects are likely to occur (and as agreed through consultation with CADW). This aligns with the advice provided in paragraph 5.11 of GLVIA3 ¹ . As such, an assessment of the effects on Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest is scoped out of the LVIA.
Cumulative Assessment:	The following has been scoped out of the cumulative assessment: • Limit the cumulative baseline of all operational and consented wind energy development and other applications for wind energy development to within 27 km of the Proposal Development Site; • Micro-generation turbines (25-50 m) that are located more than 5 km from the Development Site, with those within 5 km only to be included if they consist of three or more turbines; • Single turbine wind energy developments that are located more than 10 km from the Development Site; • Scoping stage wind energy developments will be excluded unless they exhibit high potential to alter the landscape and visual baseline into which the Proposed Development would be introduced.

6.8 Assessment methodology

- 6.8.1. The generic project-wide approach to the assessment methodology is set out in **Chapter 2: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment**. However, whilst this has informed the approach that has been used in this LVIA, it is necessary to set out how this methodology has been applied, and adapted as appropriate, to address the specific needs of this LVIA.

Methodology for predicted landscape and visual effects

- 6.8.2. The LVIA has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A** and conforms to the GLVIA3¹ which is widely accepted throughout the UK as the appropriate approach to use. Other technical guidance set out in **Table 6.3** has also informed the methodology included in **Appendix 6A**.

Significance evaluation methodology

- 6.8.3. The level of landscape and visual effect (and whether this is significant) is determined by assessing the sensitivity of the landscape or visual receptor and the magnitude of change likely to be brought about by the proposed Glanllynfi Garth Wind Farm. The time limited period for the assessment would cover the construction of the wind farm and its operation for a period of 30 years. The assessment process would reflect any iterative design mitigation measures adopted to reduce or 'design out' landscape and visual impacts throughout the operation period.
- 6.8.4. In accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations, it is important to determine whether the predicted effects are likely to be significant. Significant landscape and visual effects are highlighted in bold in the text and in most cases, relate to all those effects that result in a 'Substantial' or a 'Substantial / Moderate' effect as indicated in **Table 6.15**. In some circumstances, 'Moderate' levels of effect also have the potential, subject to the assessor's opinion, to be considered as significant and these exceptions are also highlighted in bold and explained as part of the assessment, where they occur.
- 6.8.5. The type of effect is also considered and may be direct or indirect; temporary or permanent (reversible); cumulative; and positive, neutral or negative. The assessment unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and subjective assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

Table 6.15 Evaluation of Landscape and Visual Effects

		Landscape and Visual Sensitivity			
		High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Magnitude of Change	Very High	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major/Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially Significant)
	High	Major (Significant)	Major/Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially Significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not Significant)
	Medium	Major/Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially Significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not Significant)	Minor (Not Significant)
	Low	Moderate (Potentially Significant)	Moderate/Minor (Not Significant)	Minor (Not Significant)	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Very Low	Moderate/Minor (Not Significant)	Minor (Not Significant)	Negligible (Not Significant)	Negligible (Not Significant)
	Zero	None / No View			

6.9 Assessment of landscape effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas

Geological Landscape Aspect Areas

- 6.9.1. A detailed assessment of the effects upon the nine GLAA receptors which have been scoped into the assessment, is set out in **Appendix 6D: LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects**. A summary of this assessment is presented in **Table 6.16** which confirms that there would be no significant landscape effects. The focus of the assessment is on the operational phase but the maximum effect towards the end of construction phase and at the beginning of decommissioning phase would be comparable to that during operation.

Table 6.16 Summary of effects: GLAAs (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Aspect Area reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
CYNONGL027 Upper Rhondda Fawr – W	High	Medium	High-Medium	Zero	None
CYNONGL028 Rhigos	High	Low	Medium	Zero	None
CYNONGL033 - U Ogwr Fawr Valley	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Zero	None
CYNONGL034 - U Garw Valley	High	Medium	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONGL035 U Llynfi valley	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate and Not Significant
CYNONGL038 - L Garw Valley	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONGL039 - L Llynfi Valley	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Moderate and Not Significant
NPTGL021 Blaengwrath	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Zero	None
NPTGL023 Foel Fynyddau	High	Medium	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None

Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas

- 6.9.2. A detailed assessment of the effects upon the ten LHAA receptors which have been scoped into the assessment, is set out in **Appendix 6E: LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects**. A summary of this assessment is presented in **Table 6.17**. There would be no significant landscape effects. The focus of the assessment is on the operational phase but the maximum effect towards the end of construction phase and at the beginning of decommissioning phase would be comparable to that during operation.

Table 6.17 Summary of effects: LHAAs (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Aspect Area reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
CYNONLH004 (unnamed)	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONLH005 (unnamed)	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low to Zero	Negligible and Not Significant to None
CYNONLH007 (unnamed)	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONLH012 (unnamed)	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium-Low	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONLH054 (unnamed)	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Zero	None
CYNONLH057 (unnamed)	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low to Zero	Negligible and Not Significant to None
CYNONLH058 (unnamed)	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NPTLH028 (unnamed)	High	High-Medium	High-Medium	Zero	None
NPTLH042 (unnamed)	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium-Low	Very Low to Zero	Minor to Negligible and Not Significant to None
NPTLH098 (unnamed)	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low to Zero	Negligible and Not Significant to None

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas

- 6.9.3. The assessment of effects upon the 15 VSAA receptors within the LVIA Study Area which have been scoped into the assessment, is set out in the detailed assessment tables in **Appendix 6F: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects**. A summary of the assessment of effects which may arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development, is presented in **Table 6.18**, with significant landscape effects indicated in **bold**. The focus of the assessment is on the operational phase but the maximum effect towards the end of construction phase and at the beginning of decommissioning phase would be comparable to that during operation.

Table 6.18 Summary of effects: VSAs (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Aspect Area reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Host VSAs					
CYNONVS001 Tower Colliery	Low	Medium-low	Medium-Low	Zero	None
CYNONVS580 St Gwynno	Medium	Low	Medium-Low	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONVS811 Garth Hill	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Major/Moderate and Significant
CYNONVS813 Garw and Caerau Forest	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium	High-Medium to None	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None
NPTVS547 Mynydd y Gelli	High	Low	Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
NPTVS962 Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan	Medium	Low	Medium-Low	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None
Other VSAs scoped into the LVIA					
CYNONVS142 Mynydd y Glyn	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONVS436 Mynydd Gaer	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONVS473 Mynydd Baedan	High	Medium	High-Medium	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None
CYNONVS496 Mynydd Maes-teg	High	Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONVS622 Mynydd Llangeinwyr	High	Medium	High-Medium	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None
NPTVS187 Mynydd Dinas	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NPTVS422 Neath valley sides	Medium	Medium	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NPTVS624 Carn Caca	Medium	Low	Medium-Low	Very Low to Zero	Minor to Negligible and Not Significant to None
NPTVS916 Cwm Dyffryn	High	Medium	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas

- 6.9.4. The assessment of effects upon the host HLAA receptors which have been scoped into the assessment, is set out in the detailed assessment tables in **Appendix 6G: LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects**. A summary of the assessment of effects which may arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development, is presented in **Table 6.19** with significant landscape effects indicated in **bold**. The focus of the assessment is on the operational phase but the maximum effect towards the end of construction phase and at the beginning of decommissioning phase would be comparable to that during operation.
- 6.9.5. The indirect effects on the surrounding HLAAs which have been scoped into the LVIA will be assessed as part of the Final ES.

Table 6.19 Summary of effects: HLAAs (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Aspect Area reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Host HLAAs					
CYNONHL183 Tower Colliery	Medium	Low	Medium-Low	Very Low (construction and decommissioning phases only)	Minor to Negligible and Not Significant (construction and decommissioning phases only)
CYNONHL215 H05 Unenclosed Uplands	High	Low	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONHL224 H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest	High	Low	Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONHL581 H03 Llynfi Valley Agricultural	Medium	High-Medium	High-Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant
CYNONHL687 Rhondda Uplands	High	Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONHL805 - Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low (construction and decommissioning phases only)	Minor and Not Significant (construction and decommissioning phases only)
NPTHL026 Afan Wallia	High	Low	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas

6.9.6. **Appendix 6H: LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects** contains the assessment of effects upon the CLSAA receptors within the LVIA Study Area, which has been scoped into the assessment. A summary of the assessment of effects which may arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development, is presented in **Table 6.20**. No CLSAAs are predicted to experience significant landscape effects. The focus of the assessment is on the operational phase but the maximum effect towards the end of construction phase and at the beginning of decommissioning phase would be comparable to that during operation.

Table 6.20 Summary of effects: CLSAAs (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Aspect Area reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
CYNONCLS001 Tower Colliery	Low	Medium	Medium-Low	Very Low (construction and decommissioning phases only)	Minor to Negligible and Not Significant (construction and decommissioning phases only)
CYNONCLS053 Hirwaun Common	High	High	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONCLS068 St Gwynno	Medium	Medium	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONCLS073 Mynydd Llangeinwyr	High	High	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to None
CYNONCLS099 Garth Hill	Medium	High-Medium	High-Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant
CYNONCLS100 Garw and Caerau Forest	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
NPTCLS059 Mynydd y Gelli	High	High-Medium	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
NPTCLS122 Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan	Medium	Medium	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None

6.10 Assessment of landscape effects: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Special Qualities

- 6.10.1. **Appendix 6I** provides a detailed assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the SQs of the BBNP. This has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A** and with the NatureScot Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects¹⁹ and has been informed by **Figures 6.9** (Sheets 1-4) and the baseline photography and photomontages for Viewpoint 20, presented in **Figure 6.34**.
- 6.10.2. The Proposed Development is not located within the BBNP, being approximately 15 km from its boundary. In assessing the indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the visual and perceptual SQs of the BBNP, the assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on the SQs or the integrity of the BBNP.
- 6.10.3. A Night-time Assessment which provides an assessment of the landscape, visual and cumulative effects of the aviation warning lights will be included as part of the Final ES. This will be undertaken in accordance with the Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment²⁰.
- 6.10.4. A summary of the SQ assessment for the BBNP is set out in **Table 6.21**.

Table 6.21 SQ Assessment for the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Special Quality	Landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Special Landscapes			
Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
Contrasting patterns, colours, and textures	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
Special People			
Intimate sense of community	Not assessed – cultural quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the BBNP boundary.		
Sense of place and cultural identity	Not assessed – cultural quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the BBNP boundary.		
Special Experiences			
Enjoyable and accessible	Not assessed – physical (recreational) quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the BBNP boundary.		
Sounds, sights, smells and tastes	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
Sense of discovery	Not assessed – cultural quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the BBNP boundary.		
Peace, tranquillity and dark skies	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None

Special Quality	Landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Special Nature			
Mosaic of Diversity	Not assessed – physical characteristic that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the BBNP boundary.		
Living Landscape	Not assessed – physical characteristic that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the BBNP boundary.		

6.11 Assessment of landscape effects: Gower National Landscape

Special Qualities

- 6.11.1. **Appendix 6J** provides a detailed assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the SQs of the Gower National Landscape. This has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A** and with the NatureScot Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects⁴² and has been informed by **Figures 6.9** (Sheets 1-4) and the baseline photography and visualisations for Viewpoint 19, presented in **Figure 6.33**.
- 6.11.2. The assessment of effects on the Gower National Landscape SQs has also been undertaken with reference to the supporting evidence set out in the Gower Landscape Character Assessment⁴³ and LANDMAP Surveys for the relevant VSAs which coincide with the defined Gower Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). This approach aligns with the recommendations from NRW within the Scoping Direction (PEDW ID.8 in **Table 6.4**).
- 6.11.3. The Proposed Development is not located within the Gower National Landscape, being a minimum of approximately 23 km from the closest proposed turbine. In assessing the indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the visual and perceptual SQs of the Gower National Landscape, the assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on the SQs or the integrity of the Gower National Landscape.
- 6.11.4. A summary of the SQ assessment for the Gower National Landscape is set out in **Table 6.22**.

Table 6.22 SQ Assessment for the Gower National Landscape

Special Quality	Landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Natural			
Biodiversity	Not assessed – physical characteristic that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the boundary of the Gower National Landscape.		
Geology			

⁴² NatureScot (2025). NatureScot Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects>

⁴³ City and County of Swansea Council (2013) *Gower Landscape Character Assessment*. (online). Available at: <https://swansea.gov.uk/gowerlandscapecharacter?lang=en>

Special Quality	Landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Landscape	High	Very Low	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant
Seascape	High	Very Low	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant
Cultural			
Archaeology	Not assessed – cultural qualities that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the boundary of the Gower National Landscape.		
Historic Landscapes			
Historic Parks and Gardens			
Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas			
Environmental			
Air Quality	Not assessed – physical qualities that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the boundary of the Gower National Landscape.		
Water Quality			
Soil Quality			
Tranquillity	High	Very Low	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant
Recreation			
Public Rights of Way	Not assessed – physical characteristic that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the boundary of the Gower National Landscape.		
Access Land			
Beaches			

6.12 Assessment of landscape effects: Glamorgan Heritage Coast

Sensitivity

- 6.12.1. As a landscape designation which is not covered by statute (and therefore not deemed to be of the highest level), the value of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast is assessed as High to Medium.
- 6.12.2. The susceptibility of the landscape characteristics and features of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, to the type of development proposed is considered to be Medium to Low. Whilst high levels of visibility across surrounding landscapes is often experienced from within the Heritage Coast, a common theme from all data sources which describe the character of this landscape is that views are typically directed east or west along the coastline (*“Views west along the coastline from Nash Point, including to the Gower AONB”*) or extend south towards the Somerset coastline (*“Strong intervisibility with the Somerset coastline”* and *“long views across the Bristol Channel to Somerset and Exmoor”*), with inland views (in the direction of the Proposed Development) not featuring as a key characteristic. The *“Often wild qualities of the area”* is an indicator of higher susceptibility, although this perceptual quality is tempered by a number of human influences in close proximity including the presence of Cardiff International Airport, approximately 4 km to the east of the Heritage Coast, the Aberthaw Power Station, which lies adjacent to the eastern boundary and settlements which lie within and adjacent to the northern (inland) boundary.

The medium to high levels of visual tranquillity (as defined in the LANDMAP Surveys) would similarly be of higher susceptibility to change, tempered by separation distance.

- 6.12.3. Overall, the Glamorgan Heritage Coast has been assessed as being of Medium sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

Assessment of effects: Proposed Development

Construction and Decommissioning Phases

- 6.12.4. There would be no direct landscape effects arising from the Proposed Development. Ground and low-level construction activities would have no characterising influence at distances in excess of approximately 11.8 km, whilst the deployment of a crane during the erection of each turbine would have an occasional presence in northerly views. However, this would not intrude upon the views west and east along the coastline or those south towards Somerset, which are features which contribute to the definition of this area. The magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero and effects would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be short-term, indirect and adverse.

Operational Phase

- 6.12.5. Reference to **Figure 6.9.3** indicates a moderate proportion of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast as coinciding with the blade tip ZTV at a minimum distance of approximately 11.8 km. Viewpoint 18 (**Figure 6.32 Viewpoint 18: Wales Coast Path, Ogmore-by-Sea**), which is located within the Heritage Coast, indicates that whilst the hub and upper rotator sweep of T3 and the blade tips of a further six of the eight proposed turbines would theoretically be visible from the coastline, in reality, intervening tree cover would heavily restrict views of the turbines and minimise their potential characterising influence.
- 6.12.6. The ZTV (**Figure 6.9.3**) also confirms that there would be no intervisibility between the Proposed Development and the “*near vertical cliffs, shingle or rock pavement beaches, and occasional sandy bays*” within the Heritage Coast (VLFGGLVS920 Glamorgan coast intertidal and VLFGGLVS950 Heritage Coastal Strip) or the majority of the “*gently shelving waters*” (VLFGGLVS765 Bristol Channel). Areas of theoretical visibility are therefore concentrated across the Heritage Coast Hinterland (VLFGGLVS890) and a small area on the northern edge of Merthyr-mawr Warren (CYNONVS987). From within these areas and as assessed for the construction phase, the defining coastal views to the east and west and those which extend south across the Bristol Channel would not be affected. Where visible in inland views, the proposed turbines would slightly and incrementally detract from the outstanding and high scenic quality recorded for each VSAA, although as noted previously, this primarily arises from the coastal setting. The presence of the proposed turbines may contribute to a slight dilution of the perceptual qualities relating to tranquillity and wildness, with “*seeing large non-natural infrastructure*” one of six recognised detractors from tranquillity.
- 6.12.7. 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.

Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development

- 6.12.8. The proximity of the 125 m to blade tip operational turbines at Parc Stormy and Newton Down, which are located a minimum of 1.4 km to the north of the western most part of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast may have a partial characterising influence over the closest parts of this landscape (Medium-Low magnitude). Other operational and consented schemes within the Study Area would have very limited to no characterising influence due to their scale and/or separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain 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, indirect and adverse.

Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development

- 6.12.9. The planning application scheme at Mynydd Ty-talwyn would be located in at a minimum distance of approximately 6.8 km to the north of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and would have a limited characterising influence on the landscape characteristics which define this area (Low magnitude). Other planning application and scoping schemes would have very limited or no characterising influence as a consequence of separation distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect would remain Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would also continue to be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

6.13 Assessment of landscape effects: local landscape designations

- 6.13.1. The local landscape designations entirely or partly located within 10 km of the proposed turbines are illustrated in **Figure 6.9** (sheets 1-4). Landscape effects would be indirect, and the assessment of effects will be included as part of the Final ES.

6.14 Assessment of visual effects

Visual effects on views from settlements

- 6.14.1. The assessment of effects upon the settlements within the 10 km Study Area which have been scoped into the assessment, is set out in the detailed assessment tables in **Appendix 6L: Assessment of Visual Effects**. Residents have a High susceptibility to visual change and the views in the direction of the Site are typically assessed to be of a Medium to High value, resulting in an overall High sensitivity.
- 6.14.2. A summary of the assessment of effects which may arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development, is presented in **Table 6.23**, with significant visual effects

indicated in **bold**. The focus of the assessment is on the operational phase but the maximum effect towards the end of construction phase and at the beginning of decommissioning phase would be comparable to that during operation.

Table 6.23 Summary of effects: Settlements (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Maesteg	High	High (towards the northern part of the settlement within Caerau, Dyffryn and Nantyffyllon) to High-Medium (western areas of Maesteg, Glanllynfi, Garth and Cwmfelin) to Medium Eastern parts of Maesteg and the Town Centre) to Zero	Major and Significant (towards the northern part of the settlement within Caerau, Dyffryn and Nantyffyllon) to Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (western areas of Maesteg, Glanllynfi, Garth and Cwmfelin) to Major/Moderate and Significant (Eastern parts of Maesteg and the Town Centre) to No View
Pontycymer and Blaengarw	High	High-Medium (elevated properties within southern and eastern areas of Pontycymmer) to Medium (remainder of the settlements) to Zero (Western parts of the settlements).	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant (elevated properties within southern and eastern areas of Pontycymmer) to Major/Moderate and Significant (remainder of the settlements) to No View (Western parts of the settlements).
Pont-y-rhyl	High	Medium (properties along Beech Road to the north of the junction) to Low (the remaining parts of the settlement) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (properties along Beech Road to the north of the junction) to Moderate and Not Significant to No View.
Pont Rhyd-y-cyff	High	High-Medium to Zero	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View
Croeserw	High	High-Medium (within the south to south-western areas of the settlement) to Medium (for the remainder of the settlement) to Zero	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant (within the south to south-western areas of the settlement) to Major/Moderate and Significant (for the remainder of the settlement) to No View
Bettws	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View
Llangeinor	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View
Llangynwyd	High	Medium (curtilage of properties to north-east of settlement) to Low (for the remainder to the settlement) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (properties to north-east of settlement) to Moderate and Not Significant (for the remainder to the settlement) to No View
Coytrahen	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View
Valleys Gateway	High	Medium-Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to No View
Bryn	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Glynogwr	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View
Pen-y-fai	High	Medium-Low (from northern part of the settlement) to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to No View
Cefn Cribwr	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View
Cwmafan and Brynbryddan	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View
Kenfig Hill, Pyle and North Cornelly	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View
Bridgend (Including the communities of Bryntirion, Cefn Glas, Wildmill, Litchard, Pendre, Bridgend Town Centre, Derwen and Brackla)	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View
Coity	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View
Goytre	High	Zero	None
Laleston	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View
Gilfach Goch and Hendreforgan	High	Zero	None

Visual effects on views from long-distance recreational routes

- 6.14.3. The assessment of effects upon the long-distance recreational routes within the LVIA Study Area which have been scoped into the assessment are set out in the detailed assessment tables in **Appendix 6L: Assessment of Visual Effects**. The users of all of the routes have been assessed as of High sensitivity on account of their High-Medium value as recreational routes, some of which are routed through nationally or locally designated landscapes and the High susceptibility of the people using these routes, mostly walkers and cyclists, whose attention would be focused on the landscape around them. Some exceptions include sections of routes that partly follow existing roads.
- 6.14.4. A summary of the assessment of effects which may arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development, is presented in **Table 6.24**, with significant visual effects indicated in **bold**.

Table 6.23 Summary of effects: Views from long distance recreational routes (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Nationally promoted routes (within the 28 km Study Area)			
Wales Coast Path	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View
Sustrans National Cycle Network Routes (within 10 km of the proposed turbines)			
NCN Route 4	High	Low (in the section south of Hendreforgan and the section passing through Brynmenyn and Tondy) to Very Low (in the section passing through Kenfig Hill) to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View.
NCN Route 47	High	Very Low (around Blaen-Cwmbach Roman Camp, Tonna) to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View
NCN Route 884	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View
NCN Route 885	High	High-Medium to Zero	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View.
NCN Route 887	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View
Promoted walking routes (within 10 km of the proposed turbines)			
Bridgend Circular Walk	High	Medium-Low (in the section around Pen-y-fai, Sarn and the M4) to Low (in the section between Laleston and the Maesteg rail line and the section north of Hendre) to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to No View.
Celtic Way	High	Medium (in the section west of Maesteg and south of the Foel Trawnant trig point / around the B4282 and Maesteg Golf Club), Low (in the section of the route, north-west of the operational windfarms of Pen-Y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer), Very Low (in the section bisecting Pen-Y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer Wind Farms and also along the area of the route around Gyfylchi Chapel, Afan Argoed) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View.
Cistercian Way (Wales)	High	Very High (in the section between Maesteg School and the lower slopes of Llyndwr Fawr), High (from Cwmdy Ganol Farm to Maesteg School), High-Medium (the section that passes through the village of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff / eastern edge of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff to Cwmdy	Major and Significant to No View.

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
		Ganol Farm), Medium (the section west of Maesteg and south of the Foel Trawsant trig point to south of Maesteg Golf Club / the section where the route leaves the forested area and begins crossing agricultural fields towards Viewpoint 12 / from Viewpoint 12 to Pont Rhyd-y-cyff / the section from the lower slopes of Llyndwr Fawr to where the route meets the recreational route Sky To Sea Over The Bwlch), Very Low (the section where the route crosses the historical landmark of Blaen-Cwmbach Roman Camp, Tonna), to Zero	
Coed Morgannwg Way	High	High-Medium (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Medium – Low (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Low (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to Very Low (where the route moves south-west from Twyn Corrwg Fechan) to Zero	Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Moderate and Not Significant (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to No View
Glamorgan Ridgeway Walk	High	Medium (the northern slopes of Moel Ton-mawr / as the route approaches Coytrahen / east of Llangeinor) to Medium-Low (north of Coytrahen and south of Bettws / the slopes of Mynydd y gaer) to Low (from Clwyd Lluestau where the route continues east) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (Along the section of the route which passes along Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Mynydd Baedan and east of Llangeinor) to Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Significant (along section of the route between Coytrahen and Bettws and along western areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Moderate and Significant (eastern areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Moderate and Not Significant (east of Clwyd Lluestau) to No View
Taith Fford Las Ogwr/ Ogwr Ridgeway Walk	High	Medium (Along the section of the route which passes along Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Mynydd Baedan and east of Llangeinor) to Medium-low (along section of the route between Coytrahen and Bettws and along western areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Low (eastern areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (Along the section of the route which passes along Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Mynydd Baedan and east of Llangeinor) to Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Significant (along section of the route between Coytrahen and Bettws and along western areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Moderate and Significant (eastern areas of Mynydd y Gaer) No View
Sky to Sea: Over the Bwlch	High	High-Medium (Southern part of Mynydd Llangeinwyr) Medium (northern areas of the Mynydd	Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (Southern part of Mynydd Llangeinwyr) to

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
		Llangeinwyr and south and west towards Llangeinor where 7-8 turbines are visible) to Medium-Low (where intervening landform screens some of the turbines from view) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (northern areas of the Mynydd Llangeinwyr and south and west towards Llangeinor where 7-8 turbines are visible) to Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Significant (remaining areas of the route where intervening landform screens some of the turbines from view) to No View
Sky to Sea: Through the Vale	High	Medium-Low (elevated areas south-east of Blackmill Wood) to Low (south-west of Blackmill Wood) to Zero	Major/ Moderate and Significant (elevated areas south-east of Blackmill Wood) to Moderate and Not Significant (south-west of Blackmill Wood) to No View
St Illtyd's Walk	High	High – Medium (eastern and southern slopes of Mynydd Rhiwgregen) to Medium (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Medium – Low (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Low (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to Zero	Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (eastern and southern slopes of Mynydd Rhiwgregen) to Major/ Moderate and Significant (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Moderate and Not Significant (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to No View

Visual effects on views from key outdoor recreational destinations, open access land and local PRowS

- 6.14.5. The assessment of effects upon the key outdoor recreational destinations, open access land and local PRowS within the 10 km Study Area which have been scoped into the assessment, is set out in the detailed assessment tables in **Appendix 6L: Assessment of Visual Effects**. Receptors at all of the destinations have been assessed as being of High sensitivity on account of their High - Medium value as recreational and tourist destinations, some located within designated landscapes and the High susceptibility of the people visiting these destinations, whose attention would be focused on the landscape around them.
- 6.14.6. A summary of the assessment of effects which may arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development, is presented in **Table 6.25**, with significant visual effects indicated in **bold**.

Table 6.24 Summary of effects: Views from key outdoor recreational destinations, open access land, local PRow and nationally designated landscapes (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Visitors to Historic Parks and Gardens (which are open to the public and within 10 km of the proposed turbines)			
Bryngarw Country Park	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View
Glanrhyd Hospital	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to No View.
Coytrahen House	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant
Visitors to CADW sites			
Newcastle's Castle	High	Zero	None
Users of Open Access Land and local PRowS			
Open Access Land and PRowS within 5 km of proposed turbines	High	Very High to High-Medium (Within 3 km) to High-Medium to Medium (3–5 km to Zero	The resulting level of effect would range from Major and Significant to Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View (within 3 km) and Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View (3–5 km).
Open Access Land and PRowS between 5 km-10 km of the proposed turbines	High	High-Medium to Low to Zero	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View
Notable hill summits and Open Access Land within the BBNP	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View.
Recreational areas and Open Access Land within the Gower National Landscape	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View

Visual effects on views from key transport routes ('A' and 'B' classified roads)

- 6.14.7. The assessment of effects upon the views from key transport routes ('A' and 'B' classified roads) within the 10 km Study Area which have been scoped into the assessment, is set out in the detailed assessment tables in **Appendix 6L: Assessment of Visual Effects**. Road users have a Medium susceptibility to change and the views in the direction of the Proposed Development Site are typically assessed as being of Medium to Low value resulting in an overall Medium sensitivity
- 6.14.8. A summary of the assessment of effects which may arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development, is presented in **Table 6.26**, with significant visual effects indicated in **bold**.

Table 6.25 Summary of effects: Visual effects from key transport routes ('A' and 'B' roads) (Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases)

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
M4	Medium	Medium-Low (the raised section of the M4 that passes over Bridgend Road) to Very Low (where the M4 re-enters the Study Area, north of Ballas Farm Country Guest House for approximately 2.3 km / where the M4 passes over Heol Llan) to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to Minor and Not Significant to No View
A48	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to No View
A4061	Medium	Medium-Low (Where the A4061 crosses the M4 motorway and proceeds north along the eastern edges of Sarn and Bryncethin) to Very Low (as the A4061 moves north through Bridgend) to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to No View.
A4063	Medium	High (as the route runs through Llagynwyd and Maesteg / between northern Maesteg and northern Croeserw), to High-Medium (between Coytrahen and Llangynwyd), to Very Low (as the A4063 moves north through Bridgend and crosses under the M4 / The A4063 branch connecting to the M4 motorway / as the road moves through Tondy and Coytrahen) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Not Significant to Minor and Not Significant to No View.
A4064	Medium	Medium-Low (as the A4064 moves through Pont-y-rhyl / from Pont-y-rhyl to Pontycymer), to Very Low (all other sections of the A4064) to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to Minor and Not Significant to No View
A4065	Medium	Zero	None
A4093	Medium	Medium-Low (between Llangeinor and the A4061, Pantyrwael), to Very Low (between the A4061, Blackmill and Glynogwr) to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to Minor and Not Significant to No View
A4107	Medium	Very Low (east of Cymmer) to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to No View
A473	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to No View

Receptor	Overall visual sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
B4280	Medium	Low (section of the route east of Bryncethin) to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant (section of the route east of Bryncethin) to No View
B4281	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to No View
B4282	Medium	High-Medium (Sections of the route to east of Maesteg, Garth and Cwmfelin) to Medium (Sections of the route to west of Maesteg and Maesteg Town Centre) to Low-Very Low (For the section of the route near Bryn and west of Bryn) to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant (Sections of the route to east of Maesteg, Garth and Cwmfelin) to Moderate and Significant (Sections of the route to west of Maesteg and Maesteg Town Centre) to Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant (For the section of the route near Bryn and west of Bryn) to No View

6.15 Assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects

Wind Farm Development

- 6.15.1. A cumulative effects assessment (CEA) has been undertaken for the Proposed Development which considers the combined impacts with other operational, consented and proposed wind farm developments on the same single receptor (inter-project effects). This is reported under each landscape and visual receptor assessment and has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A**.

6.16 Significance conclusions

- 6.16.1. A summary of the **significant** effects identified in the LVIA is provided in **Table 6.27**. The magnitude of change and level of effect recorded in **Table 6.27** represents the maximum level recorded for the receptor and as such may only apply to a localised part of a landscape receptor unit, route, settlement, or open space.
- 6.16.2. Effects on receptors not included in **Table 6.27** are judged to be not significant.

Table 6.26 Summary of significance of effects

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Landscape Receptors: LANDMAP VSAA's				
CYNONVS811 Garth Hill Effects on the visual and perceptual characteristics of the landscape	Medium	High	Major/Moderate and Significant	This VSAA would host seven of the eight turbines (T1-T4 and T6-T8), substations, short sections of grid connection and internal access tracks. The presence of the turbines would detract from the “ <i>attractive upland views</i> ”, 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, with the LANDMAP Survey describing this VSAA as having a “ <i>sense of wildness</i> ”. 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.
CYNONVS813 Garw and Caerau Forest Effects on the visual and perceptual characteristics of the landscape	Medium	High-Medium (close to T5) to Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant (close to T5) to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None	This VSAA would host a single turbine (T5) with the remaining T1-T4 and T6-T8 sited in the neighbouring CYNONVS811 Garth Hill to the west. Where visible, the proposed turbines would detract from the “ <i>attractive views out of this area</i> ” where these occur close to T5 or from within “ <i>small areas of rough grazing/open land</i> ” such as at Darren Fawr and would be seen above or in context with the simple forestry landcover. Where visible, the Proposed Development would incrementally dilute perceptual qualities relating to tranquillity.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
CYNONVS473 Mynydd Baedan Effects on the visual and perceptual characteristics of the landscape	High-Medium	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None	Figure 6.8d indicates 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. 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> ”. As illustrated by Viewpoint 4 (Figure 6.18 Viewpoint 4: Tudor Estate, Caerau) and Viewpoint 8 (Figure 6.22 Viewpoint 8: Heol Cynan, Llangynwy) 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 the scale of the proposed turbines. Visual tranquillity is recorded as being predominantly category 7 (36.79%) and category 8 (55.39%) and where visible, the Proposed Development would slightly dilute this perceptual quality.
CYNONVS622 Mynydd Llangeinwyr Effects on the visual and perceptual characteristics of the landscape	High-Medium	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None	Figure 6.8d indicates 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. 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> ”. 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

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				prominent vertical components of westerly views and would incrementally detract from the “ <i>High</i> ” 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.
Landscape Receptors: LANDMAP HLAA's				
CYNONHL581 H03 Llynfi Valley Agricultural Effects on the historical character of the landscape	High-Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Major-Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None	This HLAA would host two of the eight proposed turbines (T7 and T8) with the remaining six turbines located just to the east of the HLAA's boundary. 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 and in close to proximity to the HLAA would contrast with the smaller scale irregular field patterns which dominate this area and whilst 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 (Medium-Low magnitude). A Low magnitude of change and Not Significant effect would occur with increasing separation distance from the turbines where the scale, and therefore degree of contrast, would be lower, with

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				no effects occurring within the small areas of landscape at the southern edge of the HLAA which lie outside of the ZTV
Landscape Receptors: LANDMAP CLSAAs				
CYNONCLS099 Garth Hill Effects on the cultural associations and identity of the landscape	High-Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Major-Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None	This CLSAA would host seven of the eight proposed turbines, substations and grid connection with the ZTV (Figure 6.8g) indicating that the proposed turbines would potentially be visible from across the entire CLSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines would have direct effects within this aspect area which is described in the LANDMAP survey sheet as having a ' <i>strong sense of place/ local distinctiveness</i> '. Their scale and movement would give rise to a slight contrast with the dominant cultural identity indicators in respect of Industrial (HER class CL16 35.714%) but a greater degree of contrast with those relating to Domestic (HER class CL10 35.714%) and Agriculture and Subsistence (HER class CL2 7.143%). No art/ artistic expressions, folklore/legends or events/ traditions associated with the landscape have been recorded in the LANDMAP Survey.
Visual Receptors: Settlements				
Maesteg Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	High (towards the northern part of the settlement within Caerau, Dyffryn and Nantyllyllon) to High-Medium (western areas of Maesteg, Glanllynfi, Garth and Cwmfelin) to Medium Eastern parts of Maesteg and the Town Centre) to Zero	Major and Significant (towards the northern part of the settlement within Caerau, Dyffryn and Nantyllyllon) to Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (western areas of Maesteg, Glanllynfi, Garth and Cwmfelin) to Major/Moderate and Significant (Eastern parts of Maesteg and the Town Centre) to No View	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicated theoretical visibility of between 3-4 turbines within the northern parts of the settlement within the villages of Caerau and Dyffryn. Viewpoint 4 (Figure 6.18) located within Caerau (approximately 1.9 km from T1) demonstrates visibility of T1 and T3 which would appear prominently on the skyline along with T2 where the lower part of the tower would be screened by landform and T4 which would appear as blades only. Access tracks and ancillary infrastructure, such as the substations, would be screened by intervening landform. The proposed OHL grid connection would be visible on the skyline and would proceed down the hillside until it connects

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				with the existing OHL visible on the lower slopes in the mid-ground. (<i>High</i> magnitude). The ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility within village of Nanttyffyllon of between 1-2 towards the eastern part, between 3-4/ 5-6 in the northern and central parts and between 7-8 towards the south-west part of the village. T1 and T3 would be prominently visible on the skyline with T2 and T4 visible as blades towards the northern part of the village. In the central areas of the village there would in addition be visibility of T6 and T8 would be visible as blades. Within the south-western parts of the village where properties are positioned at higher elevations there would be visibility of all eight turbines on the skyline where intervening built form does not screen the view (<i>High</i> magnitude). The ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility within the central part of Maesteg of between 7-8 turbines. Viewpoint 3 (Figure 6.17) located near Maesteg school demonstrates visibility of eight turbines seen as two separate groups (Northern and Southern Array) on the skyline. T3 and T4 would be prominent in views with landform screening the tower of T2 and T1 would be visible as blades only. T6-T8 within the Southern Array would be visible further in the mid-distance with T6 and T8 prominent on the skyline and T5 and T7 appearing further back with more of the towers screened by landform. The Proposed Development would be viewed in context with existing lighting columns. Access tracks near T6 may be visible however ancillary infrastructure, such as the substations and OHL grid connections would be screened by landform (<i>High-medium</i> magnitude). Within Maesteg Town Centre the Proposed Development would be restricted by built form. There may be channelled views towards the Proposed Development as demonstrated

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				by Viewpoint 5 where views would be largely confined to T3 which would appear prominently on the skyline and T1 with the tower screened by landform. T2 and T4 would be filtered by built form and foreground vegetation (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). Further west towards Maesteg Welfare Park there is a dense belt of woodland which restricts views from the park and surrounding residential properties. As demonstrated in Viewpoint 7 (Figure 6.21) views would largely comprise of T3 and T1 appearing prominently on the skyline with the tower of T2 screened by landform and with intervening vegetation filtering views of T4. T5-T8 would be heavily filtered or screened by vegetation. The proposed OHL grid connection would be visible to the left of T1 on the skyline and would proceed down the hillside until it connects with the existing OHL visible part way down the slope (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). Within the southern part of Maesteg where intervening built form and vegetation do not screen the view there would be visibility of eight turbines on the skyline (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). The ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines within the villages of Glanllynfi. Built form and intervening vegetation would screen or filter views from many of the properties. Where visible, the turbines would appear prominently on the skyline (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). The ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility of between 3-4 and 5-6 turbines within the village of Garth as demonstrated by Viewpoint 6 (Figure 6.20) which shows there would be visibility of T1-T4 with the T5 and T8 screened by built form. The hubs and towers of T3 and T4 would appear prominently on the skyline with T1 and T2 set further back

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				with the towers and rotator sweep intercepted by landform. Access tracks and ancillary infrastructure, such as the substations and OHL grid connections, would be screened by intervening landform (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). The ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility between of between 7-8 turbines within Cwmfelin. The eastern parts of Cwmfelin would have visibility of T1-T4 on the skyline along with T7 and T8 with the lower parts screened by landform. T5 and T6 would be screened by landform in the eastern parts of the village but may be visible in the western parts where built form does not screen the view (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude).
Pontcymmer and Blaengarw Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	High-Medium (elevated properties within southern and eastern areas of Pontcymmer) to Medium (remainder of the settlements) to Zero (Western parts of the settlements)	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant (elevated properties within southern and eastern areas of Pontcymmer) to Major/Moderate and Significant (remainder of the settlements) to No View (Western parts of the settlements)	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 1-2 for the majority of the settlement and between 3-4 turbines within the north-eastern areas of Blaengarw and the eastern areas of Pontcymmer. The ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility of between 5-6 turbines on the north-eastern edge of Blaengarw. To the far west of the village the steeply rising slopes screen views of the Proposed Development. Many views within the residential areas would be restricted by housing due to the densely laid out pattern of the properties with views in the central part limited to channelled views obtained between properties. Where there are more open views such where properties do not look directly onto other properties turbine T5 would be visible on the hillside in the mid-distance above coniferous woodland with the lower part of the tower screened by landform and woodland. For the majority of the settlement T6 would only be visible as blades, however on higher elevations towards the eastern parts of the villages the hub would be visible above the horizon. Within the eastern areas of the villages where intervening built form or vegetation does not screen the view the blades of T7 and

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				T8 would also be visible. The blade tip of T4 is theoretically visible to the north-east of Blaengarw however this would be screened by intervening coniferous woodland. There are elevated properties within eastern and southern areas of Pontycymer such as along Church Street, Lower Church Street and properties along Pant-y-Gog where T5 and T6 would appear more prominently with a greater proportion of the towers visible on the skyline. The blades of T7 and T8 would also be visible above coniferous woodland in these areas.
Pont-y-rhyl Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	Medium (properties along Beech Road to the north of the junction) to Low (the remaining parts of the settlement) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (properties along Beech Road to the north of the junction) to Moderate and Not Significant to No View.	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 1-2 and 3-4 turbines along Garwfechan Road and sporadic visibility of between 1-2 turbines along Beech Road and W Rhondda Road. Within the southern part of the village the ZTVs indicate theoretical visibility of between 1-2 turbines to the west of the A4064 and between 3-4 turbines east of the A4064. From Garwfechan Road the hub of T5 would theoretically visible above the horizon, however due to the vegetation on the hillside this is likely to be limited to blades only and viewed at an oblique angle from the properties. Properties along Beech Road to the north of the junction with Garwfechan Road would have views of the hub of T5 and potentially the blade of T6 where intervening vegetation does not screen the view. The Proposed Development would be screened from the northern most properties along Beech Road and properties along W Rhondda due to intervening landform. The properties towards the southern part of the settlement are not orientated towards the Proposed Development. The blade of T5 may be visible from parts of Station Row above the coniferous vegetation. The hub and of T5 may just be visible above the coniferous woodland from the rear gardens of properties located to the west of the A4064.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				Properties located to the east of the A4064 would have visibility of T5, however the blades of T6 and T2 would be screened by vegetation.
Pont Rhyd-y-cyff Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	High-Medium to Zero	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines throughout the settlement. Intervening residential properties and vegetation would screen some of the turbines from view within parts of the settlement. There are areas of the settlement where all eight turbines would be visible on the skyline. T5-T8 would appear behind a ridgeline and would be visually prominent on the skyline and landform would intercept the tower and rotator sweep of T6 (as demonstrated in Viewpoint 8 (Figure 6.22)). The hubs and towers of T1-T4 would be visible on the skyline further in the distance than T5-T8 and appear slightly smaller in scale. The proposed OHL grid connection would be visible adjacent to T5 and would connect with the existing OHL visible on the skyline.
Croeserw Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	High-Medium (within the south to south-western areas of the settlement) to Medium (for the remainder of the settlement) to Zero	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant (within the south to south-western areas of the settlement) to Major/Moderate and Significant (for the remainder of the settlement) to No View	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 3-4 for the majority of the settlement. There is a small area predominantly between South Avenue and Gwynedd Avenue within the eastern part of the informal open space where between 1-2 turbines would be visible. To the far north-west of the settlement there would be no visibility due to intervening landform. The Proposed Development would be most visible from the rear of properties along the southern part of the settlement and south-western areas near Tudor Park and properties along Pen-Y-Bryn. In these locations T1 – T4 would be visible on the skyline with T1 appearing prominently as a full turbine. The towers of the remaining turbines would be screened by landform to varying degrees with the rotator sweep of T4 intercepted by landform. The substation and would also be visible on the skyline with the OHL visible partly on the skyline in front of T1 and partly against a backcloth of

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				landform as it proceeds west down the hillside where it would connect to an existing OHL. The Proposed Development would be viewed in context with an electrical substation with a lattice tower mast along with roadside lighting columns and there are also existing turbines of Llynfi Afan on the skyline. Within the residential areas of the settlement the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening properties or visible within the gaps of properties. The Proposed Development would be visible from the central part of the settlement where landform would screen more of the tower of T1 and T2 and T3 and T4 would be visible as blades only. Within the eastern part of the informal recreational space localised landform would reduce the visibility to the blades of T1 and T2. Further north whilst four turbines would be visible from some locations, built form and vegetation would increasingly restrict views towards the Proposed Development.
Bettws Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines within the northern and southern parts of the settlement. Towards the central area by the school theoretical visibility reduces to between 3-4 and 1-2 turbines. Where eight turbines are visible T7 would appear as a full turbine in the mid-ground with T8 positioned slightly further back along with T5 and T6 where lower parts of the towers would be screened by landform. The hub of T3 would be visible just above the horizon with the remaining turbines visible only as blades. There would be views towards access tracks between T6 and T7 along with views of the substation and the OHL grid connection. Visibility of the Proposed Development would reduce where intervening

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				built form and vegetation provides screening as demonstrated in Viewpoint 10 (Figure 6.24). Towards the area of the school the hub of T5 may be visible above the horizon. T6, T7 and T8 may be visible as blades where intervening vegetation and built form does not screen them from view.
Llangeinor Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 1-2 turbines within the northern parts of the settlement. In the area west of the junction of the A4064/minor roads there is no ZTV coverage. Within the central part of the settlement there is theoretical visibility of between 3-4 turbines and to the far south there is theoretical visibility of between 5-6 turbines. Within the elevated areas within central and southern areas of the settlement T7 and T8 would be the most prominent turbines visible on the skyline in the mid-distance. The OHL grid connection may also be visible as a small feature within the view. The blades of T5 and T6 would also be visible with potentially the blade of T3 visible to the far south of the settlement. The Proposed Development would be visible in conjunction with a mast on the skyline. At lower elevations increasing tree cover would screen the lower parts of the turbines. The mature woodland vegetation alongside the A4064 would screen the Proposed Development within these areas of the settlement. Further north in the area of the Primary school only the blade of T7 would be visible and intervening vegetation would filter views of this turbine. There would be no visibility further north of the primary school due to intervening landform and mature woodland.
Llangynwyd	High	Medium (curtilage of properties to north-east of settlement) to Low (for the	Major/Moderate and Significant (properties to north-east of settlement) to	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines throughout the settlement. Due to intervening built form and the mature tree planting within

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.		remainder to the settlement) to Zero	Moderate (for the remainder to the settlement) and Not Significant to No View.	and surrounding the village the visibility of the Proposed Development would be limited. There would be views towards T5-T8 from the rear gardens of properties to the north-east of the settlement where turbines would appear on the skyline. View towards T1-T4 would be screened at ground floor level due to a hedgerow north of Llan Road. There is mature tree and hedgerow planting within fields to the north of properties located north of Llan Road which would likely heavily filter or screen views towards T1-T4. Intervening built form and vegetation would screen views east towards T5-T8 from these properties. To the west of the Church views would be screened by built form and intervening mature trees. There may be views towards T5-T8 through gaps in the mature trees from The Old House (Public House). The graveyard to the east of the Church lies outside of the settlement boundary and is therefore not included within the assessment.
Valleys Gateway (Includes the villages of Tondy, Aberkenfig, Sarn, Bryncethin and Brynmenyn) Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	Medium-Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to No View	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 1-2 and 3-4 turbines to the west of the settlement in the area of Tondy and Aberkenfig with the northern part of Tondy having no ZTV coverage. Within the eastern areas of Tondy and Aberkenfig and further east within Sarn and Bryncethin there is theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines. Further north towards Brynmenyn the visibility is more sporadic with areas with no visibility and other areas having visibility of between 1-2 to 7-8 turbines. Within the villages of Tondy and Aberkenfig there would be no visibility to the far west due to landform and vegetation screening the blades of T5. Where theoretical visibility increases up to 7-8 turbines the reality is that intervening built form and the woodland in and around these villages would likely screen the Proposed Development.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				Within the villages of Sarn and Bryncethin intervening built form would provide screening to many areas. Where there are more open areas within the settlement up to eight turbines would be visible on the skyline in the distance with T5-T8 appearing closer and more prominent in the view and T1-T4 appearing further in the distance. There are areas where intervening vegetation would filter views of some of the turbines as demonstrated in Viewpoint 14 (Figure 6.28). Access tracks to T6, T7 may be visible in the distance along with Substation 2 and OHL grid connection. Further north within the village of Brynmenyn there are areas of no visibility due to intervening landform. Where there is theoretical visibility, the reality is that intervening built form and the woodland in and around the village would likely screen the Proposed Development.
Pen-y-fai (settlement) Adverse visual effects for people in the settlement.	High	Medium-Low (from northern part of the settlement) to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to No View	The ZTVs (Figures 6.4 and 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines within the northern part of the settlement with sporadic visibility within the central area. There is no visibility within the south-western area of the settlement and in the south-eastern area the theoretical visibility ranges between 1-2 and 3-4 turbines. Within the northern part of the settlement where intervening built form does not screen the view the wind farm would be visible on the skyline in the distance. Turbines T5-T8 would appear closer in the view with T1-T4 appearing further in the distance and slightly smaller in scale. Access tracks to T6, T7 may just be visible in the distance along with Substation 2 and OHL grid connection. Within the south-eastern part of the settlement theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would be limited to the hub and blades of T5 and T6 and the blades of T7 and T8. Given the intervening built form and mature trees within

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				this part of the settlement the Proposed Development would however likely be screened.
Visual Receptors: recreational routes				
NCN Route 885 Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	High-Medium to Zero	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View.	With reference to the ZTV (Figures 6.9.1 and 6.9.3), for the first section, where NCN Route 885 runs from outside the Electric Brewery Field, Tondu Road, Bridgend to Ogmere River where it connects to NCN Route 4 there would be theoretical visibility of 7-8 turbines to the north-north-west with occasional screening from intervening landform reducing visibility to zero. Wireline verification shows that all eight turbines would be visible as turbines and upper elements, beyond / on landform and against the skyline. As this section of the route is entirely within an urban landscape setting there will be frequent screening of the Proposed Development from built form and vegetation along the route (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude). For the second section which runs from the junction of Cwmdru Road and Cemetery Road, Maesteg (passing Viewpoint 3 (Figure 6.17)) to north of Margam Street, Cymmer where the route connects to NCN Route 887 there would be theoretical visibility ranging between 7-8 turbines (for approximately 1.5 km at the southern end of this section of the route) down to 1-2 turbines. There would be no view where the Proposed Development is screened by intervening landform. Wireline verification shows that at the southern end of this section of the route there would be visibility of T3, T4, T6 and T8 as turbines beyond landform and on the skyline. T2, T5 and T7 would be visible as upper elements only and T1 would be visible as blades only, beyond landform and on the skyline. Visibility would be filtered by near distance vegetation along the route (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude).

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Bridgend Circular Walk Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	Medium-Low (in the section around Pen-y-fai, Sarn and the M4) to Low (in the section between Laleston and the Maesteg rail line and the section north of Hendre) to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to No View.	With reference to the ZTV (Figure 6.9.3), there would be theoretical visibility of 7-8 turbines from the eastern edge of Laleston to approximately the Maesteg rail line, where theoretical visibility reduces to no view. Visibility of the Proposed Development of up to 7-8 turbines would then be available as the route approaches the western edge of Pen-y-fai, across the M4 motorway, through southern Sarn until it moves south-east and once again crosses the M4 where visibility would reduce to no view. The Proposed Development would remain screened along this section of the route apart from a small section just north of Hendre where there would be theoretical visibility of 7-8 turbines. From the eastern edge of Laleston, the upper elements of the Proposed Development would be visible beyond landform, on the skyline although views would be screened by built form associated with Laleston or filtered by hedge trees / boundary vegetation as the route leaves Laleston and proceeds north across fields (<i>Low</i> magnitude). From the western edge of Pen-y-fai and southern Sarn the Proposed Development would be visible on the landform and against the skyline as turbines. These views would be filtered by dense vegetation bounding both sides of the M4 and screened by built form associated with Sarn. This filtering and screening would reduce as the route reaches the eastern edge of Sarn and proceeds to the M4 and visibility of the Proposed Development would increase (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude). North of Hendre the upper elements and blades of the Proposed Development would be visible. These views would be filtered by field boundary vegetation particularly in Summer months when leaves are on the trees (<i>Low</i> magnitude).

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Celtic Way (recreational route) Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	Medium (in the section west of Maesteg and south of the Foel Trawsant trig point / around the B4282 and Maesteg Golf Club), Low (in the section of the route, north-west of the operational windfarms of Pen-Y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer), Very Low (in the section bisecting Pen-Y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer Wind Farms and also along the area of the route around Gyfylchi Chapel, Afan Argoed) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View.	With reference to the ZTV (Figures 6.9.1 and 6.9.4), just before the route reaches the operational windfarms of Pen-Y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer there would briefly be theoretical visibility of 3-4 turbines. After this point there are no views of the Proposed Development until the Celtic Way reaches the area around Gyfylchi Chapel, Afan Argoed where 3-4 turbines would be theoretically visible. From here there are no views of the Proposed Development until west of Maesteg where 7-8 turbines are theoretically visible. This visibility would continue as the route runs south along the eastern edge of the Afan Forest, crossing Maesteg Golf Course and enters the forestry further south. As the route leaves the forest edge to the south there would be no views of the Proposed Development which would continue to the route end. In the section of the route, north-west of the operational windfarms of Pen-Y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer views of the Proposed Development would be visible beyond intervening forestry as hubs and blades. The upper elements of T1 and T3 and the blades of T2 and T4 would be visible in the distance, beyond landform and on the skyline. These views would be filtered by the intervening forestry (<i>Low</i> magnitude). Once the route is directly between these 2 windfarms there would be visibility of the upper elements of T1, T2, T3 and T4, beyond the turbines of Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm, beyond the landform and on the skyline (<i>Very Low</i> magnitude). On the area of the route around Gyfylchi Chapel, Afan Argoed, the upper elements of T3 and blade tips of T1 and T4 would be visible beyond near distance forestry vegetation, beyond the landform and on the skyline (<i>Very Low</i> magnitude).

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				West of Maesteg and south of the Foel Trawsnant trig point, T1, T2, T3, T5, T6 and T8 would be visible as turbines beyond landform and on the skyline. The upper elements of T4 and T7 would be visible beyond landform and on the skyline. There is little screening to restrict views for receptors on this part of the route. However, as the path moves south then views become heavily filtered by near distance forestry for approximately 0.5 km. Views towards the Proposed Development would then once again become more open as the route proceeds south, over the B4282 and Maesteg Golf Club (see Table 6.25) (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). Once the route enters the forestry, views towards the Proposed Development would be heavily filtered/screened by the surrounding vegetation. Beyond this point there would be no views of the Proposed Development (<i>Zero</i> magnitude).
Cistercian Way (Wales) Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	Very High (in the section between Maesteg School and the lower slopes of Llyndwr Fawr), High (from Cwmdu Ganol Farm to Maesteg School), High-Medium (the section that passes through the village of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff / eastern edge of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff to Cwmdu Ganol Farm), Medium (the section west of Maesteg and south of the Foel Trawsnant trig point to south of Maesteg Golf Club / the section where the route leaves the forested area and	Major and Significant to No View.	With reference to the ZTV (Figures 6.9.1 to 6.9.4), there would briefly be theoretical views of the blades and blade tips of T1, T2, T3 and T4 as the route crosses the historical landmark of Blaen-Cwmbach Roman Camp, Tonna. In reality, these views would be screened by intervening forestry to the south-east (<i>Very Low</i> magnitude). From this point, views would be screened by landform or vegetation until West of Maesteg and south of the Foel Trawsnant trig point. West of Maesteg and south of the Foel Trawsnant trig point, T1, T2, T3, T5, T6 and T8 would be visible as turbines beyond landform and on the skyline. The upper elements of T4 and T7 would be visible beyond landform and on the skyline. There is little screening to restrict views for receptors on this part of the route. However, as the path moves south then views become heavily filtered by near distance forestry for approximately 0.5 km. Views towards

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
		begins crossing agricultural fields towards Viewpoint 12 / from Viewpoint 12 to Pont Rhyd-y-cyff / the section from the lower slopes of Llyndwr Fawr to where the route meets the recreational route Sky To Sea Over The Bwlch), Very Low (the section where the route crosses the historical landmark of Blaen-Cwmbach Roman Camp, Tonna), to Zero		the Proposed Development would then once again become more open as the route proceeds south, over the B4282 and Maesteg Golf Club (see Table 6.25) (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). Once the Cistercian Way (Wales) moves south from Maesteg Golf Club it proceeds into forestry where the ZTV shows theoretical visibility but in reality, the forestry vegetation would screen views of the Proposed Development. As the route leaves the forested area there would be no further visibility of the Proposed Development (<i>Zero</i> magnitude). The Proposed Development once again becomes visible as the route heads north-east, leaves the forested area and begins crossing agricultural fields towards Viewpoint 12 (Figure 6.26), where 8 turbines would be visible to recreational receptors both on and beyond the landform and against the skyline (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). The ZTV shows that theoretical views of the Proposed Development would remain consistent from Viewpoint 12 and along the minor road leading to the village of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff. In reality, during Summer months, the roadside vegetation would filter views of the Proposed Development for receptors (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). The route passes through the village of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff (approximately 0.3 km north of Viewpoint 8 (Figure 6.22)). Within this section of the route there would be opportunities for visibility of all eight turbines. T1, T2, T3 and T4 would be occasionally visible, often screened by built form associated with Pont Rhyd-y-cyff. As the route moves east T1, T2, T3 and T4 towers and hubs would become screened by landform with only blades visible beyond landform at the village eastern edge. T5, T6, T7 and T8 turbines would be consistently visible through the village beyond landform and against the skyline to the north-east with built form unlikely

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				to screen views of these turbines for receptors (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). From the eastern edge of Pont Rhyd-y-cyff to Cwmdu Ganol Farm the route passes approximately 0.7 km to the west of the southern array. Views of the Proposed Development would be filtered by near distance vegetation particularly in Summer months (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). From Cwmdu Ganol Farm, past Viewpoint 2 (Figure 6.16) there would be visibility of 7-8 turbines to varying extents beyond landform and against the skyline. The southern array would be visible to the south-east and the northern array to the north-west. Visibility of the Proposed Development would reduce as the route proceeds along Cwmdu Road with roadside vegetation filtering views of the turbines. Views would become less filtered as the route nears Maesteg School (0.2 km north-east of Viewpoint 3 (Figure 6.17)) (<i>High</i> magnitude). Between Maesteg School and the lower slopes of Llyndwr Fawr the Cistercian Way (Wales) would pass within approximately 70 m of T4. T4 would be dominant in the foreground at this point along this section of the route. T1, T2 and T3 in the northern array would become partially screened by landform between Maesteg School and the closest point to the route, becoming more visible as the route proceeds away from the northern array. The 4 turbines in the southern array would remain visible along this elevated section of the route with these views becoming filtered or screened by forestry as the route passes close to the operational turbines of Llynfi Afan (<i>Very High</i> magnitude). From the lower slopes of Llyndwr Fawr to where the route meets the recreational route Sky To Sea Over The Bwlch the route continues to pass close to the operational Llynfi

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				Afan Wind Farm. The northern array would become screened along this section of the route. There would be elevated views of the southern array with these views reducing to zero as the route moves east (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). Where the section of the Cistercian Way (Wales) follows the Sky To Sea Over The Bwlch route there would be no views of the Proposed Development. When the route leaves the Sky To Sea Over The Bwlch and proceeds east, through Ton Pentre to the Study Area boundary there would be no views of the Proposed Development (<i>Zero</i> magnitude).
Coed Morgannwg Way Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	High-Medium (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Medium – Low (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Low (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to Very Low (where the route moves south-west from Twyn Corrwg Fechan) to Zero	Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Moderate and Not Significant (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to No View	With reference to the ZTV (Figures 6.9.1 to 6.9.4), there would be theoretical views of 5-6 turbines. With wireline analysis confirming the blade tip of T8 and full turbines of T1, T2, T3 and T4 would be visible in the distance, beyond landform and against the skyline. In reality, intervening forestry vegetation would filter or screen these views. As the route moves to the south-west, visibility of the turbines would decrease to zero (<i>Very Low</i> magnitude). As the route moves south-west from Twyn Corrwg Fechan to where it joins St Illyds Walk at Afan Forest Park where 7-8 turbines would be theoretical visible on the higher ground reducing to 1-2 at lower elevations. The section of route within the forest would be screened by intervening coniferous woodland. As the route exits the forest and heads south along eastern and southern slopes of Mynydd Rhiwgregen (approximately 4.3 - 5.5 km distant) there would be views towards the Proposed Development where turbines T1-T4 would appear on the skyline with the towers screened to varying degrees. The blade tips of T5, T6 and T8 may be visible in the distance (<i>Medium-Low</i> Magnitude).

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				There would be limited views as the route heads south-west along the slopes of Mynydd Nant-y-bar due to the coniferous forestry. There is no ZTV coverage for the section of the route to the north of Mynydd Penhydd. As the route exits the coniferous forest area to the east of Rhiw Tor Cymry (Approximately 2.2 km distant) views open up over the Llynfi Valley and the settlement of Maesteg below. There would be eight turbines visible as two separate groups. T1 – T4 would appear prominently on the skyline with the lower parts of the towers intercepted by landform to varying degrees. There would also be views towards the OHL grid connections and Substation 2. T5-T8 would appear further in the distance on the skyline and slightly smaller in scale. (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). Along the southern slopes of Rhiw Tor Cymry, the route passes through an area of coniferous forestry, and the Proposed Development would therefore be screened. Upon exiting the forestry, the route heads south towards the settlement of Bryn where views of the Proposed Development would be limited due to intervening forestry and built form (<i>Low</i> magnitude). As the route heads east, it again passes through an area of coniferous forestry. Upon exiting the forestry on the eastern side of Mynydd Bach (approximately 3.3 km distant) there would again be views of all eight turbines on the skyline in mid-distance. There would also be views towards the OHL grid connections and Substation 2 (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). The route progresses south through coniferous forestry where the Proposed Development would be screened. With reference to ZTV (Figure 6.9.4) there would be no visibility west of Moel Ton-Mawr towards Mynydd y Castell.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Glamorgan Ridgeway Walk Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	Medium (the northern slopes of Moel Ton-mawr / as the route approaches Coytrahen / east of Llangeinor) to Medium-Low (north of Coytrahen and south of Bettws / the slopes of Mynydd y Gaer) to Low (from Clwyd Lluestau where the route continues east) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (Along the section of the route which passes along Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Mynydd Baedan and east of Llangeinor) to Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Significant (along section of the route between Coytrahen and Bettws and along western areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Moderate and Significant (eastern areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Moderate and Not Significant (east of Clwyd Lluestau) to No View.	With reference to ZTV (Figure 6.9.4) there is no theoretical visibility at Mynydd y Castell until it reaches the northern slopes of Moel Ton-mawr where between 7-8 turbines are shown to be theoretically visible, with visibility continuing along the hillsides of Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Mynydd Baedan (approximately 4 km distant). The turbines would be visible on the skyline as two separate groups. T5-T8 would appear as full turbines with the part of the towers visible against a landform backcloth along with access tracks, ancillary infrastructure and OHL grid connection. Turbines T1-T4 would appear slightly smaller in scale being further in the distance (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). As the route approaches Coytrahen the visibility reduces from 7-8 turbines on the higher slopes to between 3-4 and 1-2 turbines at lower elevations where T1-T4 are screened by intervening landform (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). As the route passes through areas of dense woodland (near the A4063 north of Coytrahen) the Proposed Development would be screened. In the section of the route north of Coytrahen and south of Bettws there would be between 7-8 turbines visible on the skyline for a small section of the route. The towers of T1-T4 would be screened by landform and the remaining turbines filtered by intervening woodland (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude). There are also sections of the route where there would be no visibility due to intervening landform. As the route proceeds east of Llangeinor there would be between 7-8 turbines visible on higher ground and between 5-6 turbines visible on lower ground (Figure 6.9.3). The towers and hubs of T7 and T8 would be visible on the skyline along with the OHL grid connection. The hubs of T5 and T6 would be visible above the horizon with the rotator sweeps intercepted by landform. T1-T4 would appear

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				further in the distance with intervening landform screening the towers to varying degrees (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). There would be no visibility as the route passes along the Ogmore Valley towards the village of Blackmill. Upon exiting Blackmill village the route proceeds along the slopes of Mynydd y gaer where between 7-8 turbines would be visible. There are short sections along the route without visibility where the path dips below the ridgeline. The turbines would be visible on the skyline with the towers intercepted by landform to varying degrees as demonstrated by Viewpoint 16 (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude in sections closer to the Proposed Development reducing to <i>Low</i> magnitude the further east the route progresses). From Clwyd Llestau where it continues east, following the route of the Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk to Mynydd Hugh there would be intermittent visibility of the Proposed Development. At points where the Proposed Development can be seen there would be views of 7-8 turbines beyond landform and in the distance (<i>Low</i> magnitude).
Taith Fford Las Ogwr/ Ogwr Ridgeway Walk Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	Medium (Along the section of the route which passes along Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Mynydd Baedan and east of Llangeinor) to Medium-low (along section of the route between Coytrahen and Bettws and along western areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Low (eastern areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant (Along the section of the route which passes along Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Mynydd Baedan and east of Llangeinor) to Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Significant (along section of the route between Coytrahen and Bettws and along western areas of Mynydd y Gaer) to Moderate and Significant	With reference to ZTV (Figure 6.9.4) there is no theoretical visibility at Mynydd y Castell until it reaches the northern slopes of Moel Ton-mawr where between 7-8 turbines are shown to be theoretically visible, with visibility continuing along the hillsides of Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Mynydd Baedan (approximately 4 km distant). The turbines would be visible on the skyline as two separate groups. T5-T8 would appear as full turbines with the part of the towers visible against a landform backcloth along with access tracks, ancillary infrastructure and OHL grid connection. Turbines T1-T4 would appear slightly smaller in scale being further in the distance (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). As the route approaches Coytrahen the visibility reduces from 7-8 turbines on the higher slopes to between 3-4 and

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
			(eastern areas of Mynydd y Gaer) No View	1-2 turbines at lower elevations where T1-T4 are screened by intervening landform (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). As the route passes through areas of dense woodland (near the A4063 north of Coytrahen) the Proposed Development would be screened. In the section of the route north of Coytrahen and south of Bettws there would be between 7-8 turbines visible on the skyline for a small section of the route. The towers of T1-T4 would be screened by landform and the remaining turbines filtered by intervening woodland (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude). There are also sections of the route where there would be no visibility due to intervening landform. As the route proceeds east of Llangeinor there would be between 7-8 turbines visible on higher ground and between 5-6 turbines visible on lower ground (Figure 6.9.3). The towers and hubs of T7 and T8 would be visible on the skyline along with the OHL grid connection. The hubs of T5 and T6 would be visible above the horizon with the rotator sweeps intercepted by landform. T1-T4 would appear further in the distance with intervening landform screening the towers to varying degrees (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). There would be no visibility as the route passes along the Ogmore Valley towards the village of Blackmill. Upon exiting Blackmill village the route proceeds along the slopes of Mynydd y gaer where between 7-8 turbines would be visible. There are short sections along the route without visibility where the path dips below the ridgeline. The turbines would be visible on the skyline with the towers intercepted by landform to varying degrees as demonstrated by Viewpoint 16 (Figure 6.30) (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude in sections closer to the Proposed Development reducing to Low the further east the route progresses).

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Sky to Sea: Over the Bwlch Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	High-Medium (Southern part of Mynydd Llangeinwyr) Medium (northern areas of the Mynydd Llangeinwyr and south and west towards Llangeinor where 7-8 turbines are visible) to Medium-Low (where intervening landform screens some of the turbines from view) to Zero	Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (Southern part of Mynydd Llangeinwyr) to Major/Moderate and Significant (northern areas of the Mynydd Llangeinwyr and south and west towards Llangeinor where 7-8 turbines are visible) to Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Significant (remaining areas of the route where intervening landform screens some of the turbines from view) to No View	With reference to ZTV (Figure 6.9.2 and 6.9.3) there is no theoretical visibility for the northern part of the route extending from Treherbert, south through Mynydd Maendy and west of Braich yr Hydd. Visibility of between 7-8 turbines is shown as the landform rises on Mynydd Llangeinwyr. As demonstrated in Viewpoint 11 (Figure 6.25) eight turbines would be visible against a landform backdrop but in hazy conditions the turbines may appear to be visible against the sky. The blades of T5 - T8 would appear on the skyline with local landform screening some of the tower bases except for T6 which would be visible as a full turbine. T1-T4 would appear further to the right of the view with the hubs and blades visible on the skyline. T3 would be visible as a full turbine and the lower parts of the tower for T1, T2 and T4 would be intercepted by coniferous forestry. There would be some visibility of the access tracks and Substation 2 and the proposed OHL grid connection would be visible adjacent to the substation set against a landform backdrop (Medium magnitude). Visibility is maintained for a further 3 km along Mynydd Llangeinwyr where turbines would be visible on the skyline and slightly larger in view as it heads further south (<i>High-medium</i> magnitude). The route then passes to the east of the Pen y Foel ridgeline where visibility ceases until the land rises to the south of Pen y Foel. Within this point of the route the upper parts of T5, T6 and T8 would be visible with T7 visible as a blade. T2-T4 would only be visible as blade tips and would therefore be screened by intervening vegetation (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). As the route proceeds further south and west towards Llangeinor the visibility varies depending on the elevation with up to 7-8 turbines visible at the higher elevations and between 3-4 and 5-6 at lower elevations. The towers and hubs of T7 and T8 would be visible on the skyline along with

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				the OHL grid connection. The hubs of T5 and T6 would be visible above the horizon with the rotator sweeps intercepted by landform. T1-T4 would appear further in the distance with intervening landform screening the towers to varying degrees (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). For the section of the route to the east of Bettws and within Bryngarw Country Park there is theoretical visibility of between 3-4 turbines and areas with no visibility due to landform. T5 may be visible on the skyline with T6-T8 visible as blades where intervening vegetation does not screen the view (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude).
Sky to Sea: Through the Vale Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	Medium-Low (elevated areas south-east of Blackmill Wood) to Low (south-west of Blackmill Wood) to Zero	Major/ Moderate and Significant (elevated areas south-east of Blackmill Wood) to Moderate and Not Significant (south-west of Blackmill Wood) to No View	With reference to ZTV (Figure 6.9.3) there is theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines within the section of the route within Bryngarw Country Park, however, due to dense woodland within this area of the park the Proposed Development would be screened. As the route passes through Brynmenyn views towards the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening built form and belts of mature woodland. Upon exiting the village as the route proceeds into open countryside there would be views of T7 and T8 on the skyline with the blades of T5 and T6 visible above the treeline. T1-T4 would likely be screened by woodland with the lower parts of the turbines screened by intervening landform (<i>Low</i> magnitude). As the route proceeds further east into Blackmill Wood, intervening woodland and landform would screen the view of the Proposed Development. Upon exiting the woodland, the route proceeds through open countryside where there would be views towards all eight turbines on the skyline and in the distance (<i>Medium-Low</i> magnitude). As the route heads further south towards Heol-y-Cyw, landform screen would the Proposed Development from view. Visibility does not return until the area just north of

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				Penprysg and through part of Penrpysg where between 1-4 turbines would be theoretically visible. In this section of the route the turbines would only be visible as blade tips and would therefore be screened by intervening vegetation and built form.
St Illtyd's Walk Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	High – Medium (eastern and southern slopes of Mynydd Rhiwgregen) to Medium (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Medium – Low (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Low (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to Zero	Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant (eastern and southern slopes of Mynydd Rhiwgregen) to Major/ Moderate and Significant (east of Rhiw Tor Cymry) to Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant (eastern side of Mynydd Bach) to Moderate and Not Significant (where landform and coniferous woodland provide some screening) to No View	With reference to ZTV (Figure 6.9.1) there is no theoretical visibility within Resolven at the northern section of the route until the route reaches an elevated section approximately 2.5 km south. Within this section, 3-4 turbines are shown to be theoretically visible, however coniferous forestry would screen the view. The route continues south-east where visibility ceases until it reaches Afan Forest Park where 7-8 turbines would be theoretical visible on the higher ground reducing to 1-2 at lower elevations. The section of route within the forest would be screened by intervening coniferous woodland. As the route exits the forest and heads south along eastern and southern slopes of Mynydd Rhiwgregen (approximately 4.3 - 5.5 km distant) there would be views towards the Proposed Development where turbines T1-T4 would appear on the skyline with the towers screened to varying degrees. The blade tips of T5, T6 and T8 may be visible in the distance (<i>Medium-Low</i> Magnitude). There would be limited views as the route heads south-west along the slopes of Mynydd Nant-y-bar due to the coniferous forestry. There is no ZTV coverage for the section of the route to the north of Mynydd Penhydd. As the route exits the coniferous forest area to the east of Rhiw Tor Cymry (Approximately 2.2 km distant) views open up over the Llynfi Valley and the settlement of Maesteg below. There would be eight turbines visible as two separate groups. T1 – T4 would appear prominently on the skyline with the lower parts of the towers intercepted by landform to

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				varying degrees. There would also be views towards the OHL grid connections and Substation 2. T5-T8 would appear further in the distance on the skyline and slightly smaller in scale. (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). Along the southern slopes of Rhiw Tor Cymry, the route passes through an area of coniferous forestry, and the Proposed Development would therefore be screened. Upon exiting the forestry, the route heads south towards the settlement of Bryn where views of the Proposed Development would be limited due to intervening forestry and built form (<i>Low</i> magnitude). As the route heads east, it again passes through an area of coniferous forestry. Upon exiting the forestry on the eastern side of Mynydd Bach (approximately 3.3 km distant) there would again be views of all eight turbines on the skyline in mid-distance. There would also be views towards the OHL grid connections and Substation 2 (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). The route progresses south through coniferous forestry where the Proposed Development would be screened. With reference to ZTV (Figure 6.9.4) there would be no visibility west of Moel Ton-Mawr towards Mynydd y Castell.
Visual Receptors: recreational destinations				
Bryngarw Country Park Adverse visual effects for recreational receptors.	High	<i>Medium to Zero</i>	Major/Moderate and Significant to No View.	The ZTVs (Figures 6.2 – 6.5) indicate theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development of between 7 – 8 turbines with wireline analysis confirming all the turbines would appear beyond landform and on the skyline from meadow land in the north-west of the Country Park. Views of the Proposed Development would be filtered by intervening lattice pylons, overhead lines and deciduous boundary vegetation particularly in Summer months when leaves are on the trees. In other areas of the Country Park the Proposed Development would be screened by landform or would be screened or heavily filtered by the mature woodlands.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Open Access Land and PRowS within 5 km of proposed turbines Adverse visual effects for users of Open Access Land and local PRowS	High	Very High to High-Medium to Zero (within 3 km). High-Medium to Medium to Zero (3–5 km).	The resulting level of effect would range from Major and Significant to Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View (within 3 km) and Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View (3–5 km).	Within the Site, there are two areas of designated Open Access Land. Turbine T1, T2, T3 and T4 fall within one area of Open Access Land on the hillside Mynydd Pwll-yr-lwrch. Turbines T5 and T6 are located close to the boundary of an area of Open Access Land within a forested area which comprises the majority of Garw Forest on the slopes of the hillside of Moel Cynhordy. There is an area of Open Access Land within a forested area comprising a smaller portion of Garw Forest immediately to the south-east of the Proposed Development. All of these areas are crossed by PRowS. There are other areas of Open Access Land within 5 km, one approximately 1.4 km east (see Viewpoint 9 (Figure 6.23) and Viewpoint 11 (Figure 6.25)) and another approximately 4.3 km east, one approximately 3.5 km south-east and another approximately 4.7 km south-east, one approximately 2.5 km south-west and one approximately 1.9 km north-west. Other Open Access Land within forested areas include Ogmores Forest (approximately 4.1 km east), Parc Cefnmachen (approximately 4.3 km south-east), Mynydd Margam (approximately 3.8 km west), Mynydd Penhydd (approximately 1.9 km west), Mynydd Nant-y-bar (approximately 3.7 km north-west), Pencraig Isaf (approximately 3.3 km north-north-west) and Mynydd Rhiw-llech (approximately 2.9 km north). Due to the screening provided by the forestry, visibility would be limited to the outer edges facing the Proposed Development. Within these areas of Open Access Land and associated PRowS there are locations where all eight turbines would be visible to recreational receptors The distribution of local PRowS within 5 km extends in all directions around the Proposed Development with a number of PRowS also crossing through the Site. The footpaths which fall within the Site would have the greatest visibility of

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				all eight turbines and given their proximity, would be visually prominent. Footpaths located to the north-west and south-east of the Proposed Development and those east of Mynydd Llangeinwyr would have less visibility due to intervening landform screening a number of the turbines.
Open Access Land and PRoWs within 5-10 km of proposed turbines Adverse visual effects for users of Open Access Land and local PRoWs	High	High-Medium to Low	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to No View	There are several areas of Open Access Land within 5-10 km, with the largest number situated near to each other and stretching from south-west of the Proposed Development to the south-west. The majority of these are within forested areas. Due to the screening provided by the forestry, visibility would be limited to the outer edges facing the Proposed Development. There are a group of Open Access Land areas to the south-south-west of the Proposed Development, north-east of Bridgend and another smaller area of Open Access Land south-east of Pyle which is bisected by the M4 motorway. Within these areas of Open Access Land and associated PRoWs there are locations where all eight turbines would be visible to recreational receptors. The distribution of local PRoWs within 5-10 km extends in all directions around the Proposed Development. Footpaths located to the north-east and south-west of the Proposed Development would have less visibility due to intervening landform screening a number of the turbines.
Visual receptors: transport routes				
A4063 Adverse visual effects for users of transport routes.	Medium	High (as the route runs through Llagynwyd and Maesteg / between northern Maesteg and northern Croeserw), to High-Medium	Major/Moderate and Significant to Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to No View.	With reference to the ZTV (Figure 6.9.1 and 6.9.4), as the A4063 moves north through Bridgend and crosses under the M4 there would be theoretical views of up to 7-8 turbines. In reality, as this is an urban landscape, the Proposed Development would be screened throughout the

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
		(between Coytrahen and Llangynwyd), to Very Low (as the A4063 moves north through Bridgend and crosses under the M4 / The A4063 branch connecting to the M4 motorway / as the road moves through Tondy and Coytrahen) to Zero		majority of this section of the road by built form associated with Bridgend and roadside vegetation. As the road passes under the M4 until the roundabout where it branches either east or north there is heavy roadside vegetation screening or heavily filtering views (<i>Very Low</i> magnitude). The A4063 branch connecting to the M4 motorway would have theoretical visibility of 7-8 turbines. In reality, this section of road is bounded on both sides by heavy roadside vegetation which would heavily filter or screen views towards the Proposed Development (<i>Very Low</i> magnitude). As the road moves north through Tondy and Coytrahen it would have theoretical visibility of up to 7-8 turbines. In reality, this is an urban landscape and views of the Proposed Development would be screened or heavily filtered by built form or roadside vegetation (<i>Very Low</i> magnitude). Between Coytrahen and Llangynwyd there would be theoretical visibility of 7-8 turbines. Wireline verification shows there would be visibility of all eight turbines beyond landform and on the skyline. In reality, there is consistent roadside vegetation along this section of the A4063, with occasional gaps in the vegetation affording transient views towards the Proposed Development. The vegetation would heavily filter views of the Proposed Development, particularly in Summer months when the leaves are on the trees (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude). As the A4063 runs approximately north through Llangynwyd and Maesteg there would be theoretical visibility of 7-8 turbines. Wireline verification shows that there would be visibility of all eight turbines beyond landform and on the skyline, reducing as the road moves north. In reality, there is roadside vegetation and built form along this section of the A4063. Occasional gaps in the vegetation and built form

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				afford transient views towards the Proposed Development. At some points as the route passes through Maesteg, there would be visibility of the turbines above the built form (<i>High</i> magnitude). Between northern Maesteg and northern Croeserw there would be theoretical visibility of 3-4 turbines. Wireline verification shows that there would be visibility of T1, T2, T3 and T4 to the south-east beyond landform and on the skyline. On the section of road leading to Croeserw these views would be more open. Within Croeserw there would be screening provided by built form (<i>High</i> magnitude). Between Croeserw and the end of the A4063 views would reduce to no view of the Proposed Development (<i>Zero</i> magnitude).
B4282	Medium	<i>High-Medium</i> (Sections of the route to east of Maesteg, Garth and Cwmfelin) to <i>Medium</i> (Sections of the route to west of Maesteg and Maesteg Town Centre) to <i>Low-Very Low</i> (For the section of the route near Bryn and west of Bryn) to <i>Zero</i>	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant (sections of the route to east of Maesteg, Garth and Cwmfelin) to Moderate and Significant (sections of the route to west of Maesteg and Maesteg Town Centre) to Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant (For the section of the route near Bryn and west of Bryn) to No View	With reference to the ZTV (Figure 6.9.4), there would be no views of the Proposed Development for approximately 1.1 km east of Cwmafan (<i>Zero</i> magnitude). As the route continues east towards Bryn there would be theoretical visibility of up to 5-6 turbines. Wireline verification shows that there would be visibility of T1-T4 on the skyline in the distance with the tower of T1 screened by landform. T6 would only be theoretically visible as blades. Given the extent of mature woodland vegetation alongside this section of the route the Proposed Development would be visible for short sections where intervening vegetation would not screen the view. The majority of this section of the route would be screened in the summer months and heavily filtered in the Winter months (<i>Low – Very Low</i> magnitude). Within the western extents of Bryn there would be theoretical visibility of between 7-8 turbines for approximately 0.2 km. As the route proceeds east through Bryn the theoretical visibility gradually reduces to between 1-2 turbines with some sections within Bryn containing areas

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				of no visibility and for a 0.4 km length of route to the east of Bryn. Wireline verification shows that T1-T4 would be visible with T1 visible as blades only. The hub and blades of T6 and the blades of T5 and T8 would be visible on the skyline in the distance and seen in context with 400kV electricity line and pylons. Given the mature vegetation to the south of this section of the route the views would be fleeting and largely screened, particularly in the summer months (<i>Low – Very Low</i> magnitude). As the route proceeds east, theoretical visibility increases to between 3-4 turbines, however, due to roadside embankments and vegetation views would be screened. Along the section of the route to the west of Maesteg (approximately 3km distant) there would be theoretical visibility of up to 7-8 turbines along an approximately 1 km section of the route. All eight turbines would be visible on the skyline with the lower parts of the towers intercepted by landform (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). The route then proceeds through Maesteg Town Centre where theoretical visibility is shown to be between 7-8 turbines. Built form would however screen views of the Proposed Development within large sections of the route with some visibility channelled along streets from some locations of the Town. Along sections of Talbot Street (Viewpoint 5) there would be visibility of T1-T4 on the skyline with intervening landform screening the towers to varying degrees with tree planting filtering views towards the turbines (<i>Medium</i> magnitude). As the route heads south-east along Castle Street there would be channelled views of T5-T8 on the skyline with some near distance views of T1-T4 between gaps in the buildings from some sections of the route. As the route proceeds south into Garth theoretical visibility reduces to

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				between 3-4 and 5-6 turbines with T6 and T8 visible only as blades where intervening built form would not screen the view (<i>High-Medium</i> magnitude).

1. The sensitivity of a receptor is defined using the criteria set out in **Section 6.8** and **Appendix 6A** and is defined as very low, low, medium, and high.
2. The magnitude of change on a receptor resulting from activities relating to the development is defined using the criteria set out in **Section 6.8** and **Appendix 6A** and is defined as very low, low, medium, high and very high.
3. The significance of the environmental effects is based on the combination of the sensitivity of a receptor and the magnitude of change and is expressed as major (significant), moderate (potentially significant) or minor/negligible (not significant), subject to the evaluation methodology outlined in **Section 6.8** and **Appendix 6A**.

6.17 Further work to be undertaken

6.17.1. This section describes the further work to be undertaken to support the LVIA presented in the Final ES.

Baseline

6.17.2. Further baseline work to be undertaken for the Final ES includes the following:

- Viewpoint photography for the additional viewpoint locations requested by consultees through the Scoping Direction as follows:
 1. St Illtyd's Way on the edge of the Margam Forestry Block (approximate grid reference 283609, 191218) as requested by NPTC.
 2. Local PRoW adjacent to the forest edge on Mynydd Emroch (approximate grid reference 279162, 190938) as requested by NPTC.
 3. Tudor Park within Croeserw, adjacent to National Cycle Network Route 885 (approximate grid reference 286376, 195224) as requested by NPTC.
 4. Mumbles Hill (approximate grid reference 262781, 187443) as requested by NRW.
 5. Fan Gyhirych Trig Point (approximate grid reference 288055, 219073) as requested by NRW.

6.17.3. Consultees, in particular NPTC, NRW and BBNPA, are requested to confirm that the locations set out above satisfy their requests.

Assessment

6.17.4. Additional landscape and visual assessments to be undertaken and reported in the Final ES are as follows:

- An assessment of the indirect landscape effects of the HLAAs within 10 km of the proposed turbines and which have been scoped into the LVIA;
- An assessment of the indirect landscape effects on the local landscape designations within 10 km of the proposed turbines and which have been scoped into the LVIA;
- Include Y Bryn Wind Farm as a cumulative scheme if consented or if the Judicial Review has not been concluded.
- The RVAA which will be reported in **Appendix 6M** of the Final ES; and
- The Night-time assessment which will form **Appendix 6N** of the Final ES.