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6 Landscape and Visual

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1. This chapter of the Draft Environmental Statement (ES) presents the preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development with respect to landscape and visual amenity receptors. The preliminary 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 Site; 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 preliminary assessment of landscape effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas (**Section 0**);
- the preliminary assessment of landscape effects: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (**Section 6.10**);
- the preliminary assessment of landscape effects: Wye Valley National Landscape (**Section 6.11**);
- the preliminary assessment of landscape effects: local landscape designations (**Section 6.11.4**);
- the preliminary assessment of visual effects (**Section 6.13**);
- preliminary assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects (**Section 0**);
- a summary of the preliminary significance conclusions (**Section 6.15**); and
- an outline of further work to be undertaken for the Final ES (**Section 6.16**).

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: Wye Valley National Landscape; and
- **Appendix 6K** Viewpoint Assessment.

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

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

6.1.5. The following figures also accompany this LVIA:

- Figure 6-1 Landscape and Visual Study Area;
- Figure 6-2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip with Viewpoint Locations;
- Figure 6-3 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Hub Height with Viewpoint Locations;
- Figure 6-4 Detailed Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip with Viewpoint Locations;
- Figure 6-5 Detailed Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Hub Height with Viewpoint Locations;
- Figure 6-6 Wind energy developments included in the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA);
- Figure 6-7 Landform within the Study Area;
- Figure 6-8 National Landscape Character Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Hub Height and Blade Tip;
- Figure 6-9a LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas filtered into the LVIA with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip;

- Figure 6-9b LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas filtered into the LVIA with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip;
- Figure 6-9c LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas filtered into the LVIA with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip;
- Figure 6-9d Detailed LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas filtered into the LVIA with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip
- Figure 6-9e LANDMAP: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas filtered into the LVIA with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip;
- Figure 6-9f Detailed LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas filtered into the LVIA with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip
- Figure 6-9g LANDMAP: Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas filtered into the LVIA with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip;
- Figure 6-10_1 National and local landscape designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip (Sheet 1 of 4);
- Figure 6-10_2 National and local landscape designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip (Sheet 2 of 4);
- Figure 6-10_3 National and local landscape designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip (Sheet 3 of 4);
- Figure 6-10_4 National and local landscape designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip (Sheet 4 of 4);
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- Figure 6-16a Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in relation to Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen wind farms;
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- Figure 6-16c Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in relation to Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel wind farms;
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- Figure 6-37a-i Viewpoint 20: Wales Coast Path, Newport;
- Figure 6-38a-i Viewpoint 21: Summit of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn;

- Figure 6-39a-i Viewpoint 22: Bertholey House, Newbridge on Usk;
- Figure 6-40a-i Viewpoint 23: The Blorenge, BBNP;
- Figure 6-41a-i Viewpoint 24: Trig point at Mynydd Llangynidr, BBNP;
- Figure 6-42a-i Viewpoint 25: Trig Point at Cefn yr Ystrad, BBNP;
- Figure 6-43a-i Viewpoint 26: Raven Walk within the Mynyddislwyn SLA;
- Figure 6-44a-i Viewpoint 27: B-Road and PRoW within the Abercarn VILL; and
- Figure 6-45a-g Viewpoint 28: Llanishen, Wye Valley National Landscape.

6.1.6. Each set of visualisation figures for Viewpoints 1 to 28 is presented across a number of pages including:

- Viewpoint parameters;
- Existing view comprising baseline photography and wireline – 90° horizontal field of view;
- Wireline – 53.5° horizontal field of view;
- Cumulative wireline(s) – 90° horizontal field of view;
- Photomontage – 53.5° horizontal field of view; and
- Photomontage – 90° horizontal field of view.

6.1.7. Photomontages have not been produced for Viewpoint 28: Llanishen, Wye Valley National Landscape due to a separation distance and low cloud cover in the baseline photography.

Limitations and assumptions

6.1.8. The information provided in this Draft ES is preliminary, the final assessment of likely significant Landscape and Visual Impact effects will be reported in the Final ES. This Draft ES has been produced to fulfil the Applicants Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) responsibilities and enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development based on latest current information.

6.1.9. As set out in **Chapter 2: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment**, all assessments within this Draft ES are based on the Site as shown on **Figure 1-2**. This includes the Proposed Development and the access track between the turbines and Mynydd Maen Wind Farm which the Applicant would be responsible for constructing. The LVIA assumes that the remaining sections of access tracks between the public highway and southern most on-site access tracks for the Mynydd Maen Wind Farm would be constructed prior to the commencement of construction of the Proposed Development by the developers of that scheme, meaning that construction impacts associated with these access tracks would have already been realised prior to site mobilisation, and secured under separate planning approvals and conditions.

6.1.10. A preliminary assessment of effects associated with the offline access track between Pantside and the unclassified road (see inset A on Figure 1-2) has not been undertaken as part of the Draft ES as the design is yet to be determined. The Final ES will be updated to consider any effects associated with this segment of track.

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: Legislation and policy overview**.

Legislation

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

Table 6.1 Legislation relevant to the LVIA

Legislation	Legislative context
Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015[1]	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[2] 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.
Environment (Wales) Act 2016[3]	This Act requires, under Section 6 – Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty, that a public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. This requirement could be interpreted to include landscape as part of the ecosystems approach.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949[4]	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 2000[5]	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

[1] National Assembly for Wales (2015) *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*. (Online). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2 (Accessed September 2025)
[2] 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 (Accessed 04 November 2025)
[3] National Assembly for Wales (2016) *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*. (Online). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents (Accessed September 2025)
[4] 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 (Accessed September 2025)
[5] 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 (Accessed September 2025)

Legislation	Legislative context
	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

Policy	Policy context
National planning policy **Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12**[2]	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. General LVIA issues are included in Chapter 6 - Distinctive and Natural Places and more specifically within Section 6.3 Landscape. Amongst the statements of particular relevance to the Project are those concerning statutory landscape designations i.e., National Parks and National Landscapes, including paragraph 6.3.5 that 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 6.3.20 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.
Future Wales - The National Plan 2040[6]	Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure. This policy advises that there is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development in Pre-Assessed Areas for wind developments (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), subject to the criteria in Policy 18. The Site lies within Pre-Assessed Area 10 (further detail is set out in **Section 3.2** of **Chapter 3: Scheme Need, Alternatives and Iterative Design Process**). 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.

[6] Welsh Government (2021) *Future Wales - The National Plan 2040*. (Online). Available at:

Policy	Policy context
Local planning policy Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) Local Development Plan up to 2021[7],[8]	Policy SP10 – Conservation of Natural Heritage states the Council will protect, conserve, enhance and manage the natural heritage of the County Borough in the consideration of all development proposals within both the rural and built environment. Policy CW2 – Amenity outlines that development proposals should reference relevant material planning considerations to avoid unacceptable impact on the amenity of adjacent properties or land. Although the effects are considered to predominantly relate to residential proposals, the policy applies to all forms of development and includes consideration of the adverse effects of a development on adjoining uses. Policy CW4 - Natural Heritage Protection states that development proposals that affect locally designated natural heritage features will only be permitted where they conserve, and where appropriate enhance, the distinctive or characteristic features of the SLA or Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL). Policy CW6 – Trees, Woodland and Hedgerow Protection determines that development proposals will only be permitted where all reasonable efforts have been made to retain, protect and integrates trees, woodland or hedgerows within the Site. Should tress, woodlands or hedgerows be removed as part of a development proposal, suitable replacements should be provided. The LDP also provides Supplementary Planning Guidance LDP 4 – Trees and Development. Policy CW15 – General Locational Constraints states development proposals outside settlement boundaries will not be permitted unless associated with the provision of public utilities/ infrastructure that cannot be reasonably located elsewhere. Policy NH1 - Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) identifies six non-statutory SLA designations, five of which (NH1.2 Gelligaer Common, NH1.3 Mynydd Eglwysilan, NH1.4 North Caerphilly NH1.5 South Caerphilly and NH1.6 Myynddislwyn) lie within 10km of the Proposed Development and coincide with the ZTV as set out in the baseline presented in **Section 6.5**. The text accompanying the policy states that "*these areas will be protected from any development that would harm their distinctive features or characteristics*" and that the applicant will need to demonstrate that any development proposal will not have an unacceptable impact on the specific distinctive features or characteristics associated with the SLA. Policy NH2 – Visually Important Local Landscape (VILLS) classifies four non-statutory VILL designations. The Proposed Development is located within NH2.3 Abercarn while two other VILLs, NH2.2 Manmoel and NH2.4 Rudry, lie within 10km of the Proposed Development and coincide with the ZTV. The text accompanying the policy states that "*development will only be permitted where it conserves and, where appropriate, enhances the distinctive visual and sensory landscape features or characteristics of the VILL*" and that development proposals should show how these features of the visual and sensory LANDMAP aspect layer are conserved and, where relevant enhanced to the advantage of the visual landscape.

[7] Caerphilly County Borough Council (2010) *Local Development Plan up to 2021*. (Online). Available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillydocs/ldp/written-statement.aspx (Accessed September 2025)
[8] Caerphilly County Borough Council (2010) *Local Development Plan up to 2021 – Appendices to the Written Statement*. (Online). Available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/caerphillydocs/ldp/appendices-to-written-statement.aspx (Accessed September 2025)

Policy	Policy context
Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan up to 2021[9]	Policy SP10 - Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment provides criteria through which Blaenau Gwent's natural environment and designated landscape will be protected, and, where appropriate, enhanced. This includes protecting those attributes and features which make a significant contribution to the character, quality, and amenity of the landscape. Policy DM1 - New Development states that development proposals should meet a number of criteria, including that there would be no unacceptable adverse visual impact on townscape or landscape. Policy DM4 - Low and Zero Carbon Energy provides criteria against which development, such as onshore wind farms will be considered. It requires that development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on local amenity, which includes (amongst other criteria), visual dominance. Policy ENV2 - Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) lists the eight SLAs that have been identified within the area administered by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council using a regionally agreed methodology. Four SLAs lie within 10km of the Proposed Development and coincide with the ZTV as set out in the baseline presented in **Section 6.5**. The policy states that development within the defined SLAs will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout, and materials appropriate to the character of the area.
Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan (to 2021)[10]	Policy C2 - Special Landscape Areas lists the eight SLAs that have been identified within the area administered by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC). Six SLAs lie within 10km of the Proposed Development and coincide with the ZTV as set out in the baseline presented in **Section 6.5**. The policy states that in order to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the designated SLAs, development proposals that could impact on these designations will be expected to conform to high standards of design and environmental protection which is appropriate to the LANDMAP character of the area.
Newport Local Development Plan 2011-26 Adopted Plan[11]	Policy SP8 - Special Landscape Areas sets out six SLAs within the area administered by Newport City Council, three of which lie within 10km of the Proposed Development and coincide with the ZTV as set out in the baseline presented in **Section 6.5**. The policy requires that proposals contribute positively to the area through high quality design, materials and management schemes that demonstrate a clear appreciation of the area's special features.
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) Authority Local Development Plan 2007-2022[12]	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

[9] Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (2012) *Local Development Plan up to 2021*. (Online). Available at: https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/media/szrml3sh/written-statement-without-appendices.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[10] Torfaen County Borough Council (2013) *Local Development Plan (to 2021)*. (Online). Available at: https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Forward-Planning/Adopted-Torfaen-LDP-Writen-Statement.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[11] Newport City Council (2015). *Newport Local Development Plan 2011-26 Adopted Plan.* (Online). Available at: https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Planning-Documents/LDP-2011-2026/LDP-Adopted-Plan-January-2015.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[12] 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 (Accessed September 2025)

Policy	Policy context
	not have a significant adverse impact on the Natural Beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and special qualities of the National Park. 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.

6.2.4. As well as the national and local development plans, reference has been made to the following:

- Landscape and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance[13] (Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority).

Technical Guidance

6.2.5. A summary of the technical guidance for the LVIA is given 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)[14]	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 provides the framework within which the remaining sections of the Draft ES have been undertaken with the detailed implications for the methodology by which the LVIA has been undertaken being set out in **Section 6.8**.
Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 - Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)[15]	This document provides a compilation of clarifications on the GLVIA3 and has been produced to help interpret aspects of the guidance provided in GLVIA3 and should be read alongside GLVIA3.
Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (GN46)[16]	This guidance outlines Natural Resources Wales (NRW) advice on how LANDMAP information should be used in LVIAs. 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.

[13] Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (2014) *Landscape and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance*. (Online). Available at: https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Landscape-and-Development-SPG-Adopted-October-2014.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[14] Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. 3rd edition*. London. Routledge
[15] 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 (Accessed September 2025)
[16] Natural Resources Wales (2024) *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 (Accessed September 2025)

Technical guidance document	Context
Visual Representation of Windfarms (Version 2.2)[17]	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 Proposals[18]	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 Developments[19]	This guidance sets out advice on assessing cumulative landscape and visual impacts and is referenced in Chapter 7 of GLVIA3.
Technical Information Note 2/2019 – Residential Visual Amenity Assessment[20]	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. 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 - Infrastructure[21]	This Technical Guidance 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 designations[22]	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 effects[23]	This guidance applies to the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) identified for National Parks and describes the sequence of steps to follow in a SLQ assessment, demonstrates how the SLQs 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.

[17] 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 (Accessed September 2025)
[18] Landscape Institute (2019) *Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals*. (Online). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/ (Accessed September 2025)
[19] Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) (2012) *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 (Accessed September 2025)
[20] Landscape Institute (2019) *Technical Guidance Note 2/19 - Reside ntial Visual Amenity Assessment*. (Online). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/rvaa/ (Accessed September 2025)
[21] Landscape Institute (2020) *Technical Information Note 04/2020 – Infrastructure*. (Online). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/news/infrastructure-guidance-updated/ (Accessed September 2025)
[22] 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/
[23] NatureScot (2025) *Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects*. (Online). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects (Accessed September 2025)

Technical guidance document	Context
Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment[24]	The Guidance explains why night-time Aviation Lighting Impact Assessments are needed and it sets down a three-stage process for evaluating and illustrating the effects

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 **Section 2.4** of **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 04 December 2024 (reference DNS CAS-03701-H3V4Y3: Rhyswg Wind Farm). A summary of the relevant responses received in the Scoping Direction 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 in the Draft ES is preliminary and not all of the Scoping Direction comments have been addressed at this stage, however, all comments will be addressed within the Final ES.

Table 6.4 Summary of EIA Scoping Direction responses for the LVIA

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
PEDW ID.6	The LVIA chapter should refer to Design Commission for Wales (Nov 2023) Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales. NRW and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (NPA) state that the management plan for the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park should inform the assessment. This document sets out the special qualities of the National Park (NP) which must be considered as part of the LVIA.	Both documents have informed the LVIA and are referenced in **Section 6.6** and **Table 6.5** respectively. A detailed assessment of the effects on the Special Qualities and Landscape Character of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park is included in **Appendix 6I** and the findings are reported in **Section 6.10.**
PEDW ID.7	NRW recommend a search area of 27km based on the proposed 180m blade tip height.	A Study Area of 27km has been used in the LVIA as set out in **Section 6.4** and shown on **Figure 6-1**.
PEDW ID.8	The impact on any Public Right of Way (PRoW) and respective users must be fully addressed in the ES. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from CCBC's Rights of Way Officer and the Open Spaces Society within which it is recommend turbines are located a distance greater than their tip height from any PRoW.	The direct impacts on PRoW within the Site is addressed in **Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport** and **Chapter 15: Socia-economics**. The visual effects on users of PRoWs are included in the LVIA in **Section 6.13.**

[24] NatureScot (2024) *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment*. (Online). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-aviation-lighting-impact-assessment (Accessed September 2025)

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
PEDW ID.9	The number of turbines included in the assessment should be clarified in the ES. CCBC recommend a suitably scaled ZTV covering a 10km radius is included within the LVIA. The plan should feature a more detailed OS plan backdrop and should include the viewpoints.	**Chapter 4: Development Description** confirms that three turbines are proposed as part of the Proposed Development and the ZTVs and visualisations which accompany the LVIA have been generated using the turbine grid coordinates and parameters set out in **Chapter 4**. ZTVs have been presented at a variety of scales as set out in **Section 6.4,** including within a 10km offset from the Proposed Development.
PEDW ID.10	Additional viewpoint locations have been recommended by CCBC, Bannau Brycheiniog NPA and NRW. Notably, at least one night-time viewpoint should be included. The applicant should incorporate the recommended viewpoints in the LVIA. CCBC requested additional viewpoints from the following locations: ● Mynyddislwyn Special Landscape Area and the Raven Walk; ● B-Road and PRoW located to the north within the Abercarn VILL at OS ref: 323073, 196513; and, ● Nighttime viewpoints will also be required. Its recommend that these include at least one residential area and all should be within 5km of the site. NRW requested that one or two viewpoints from within the BBNP in addition to the viewpoints at Lasgarn Lane and The Blorenge as well as a viewpoint from within the Wye Valley National Landscape.	The requested locations from CCBC, BBNPA and NRW have been included as Viewpoints 25, 26, 27 and 28. Night-time photography will be undertaken as part of the Final ES. A list of preliminary locations is included in **Section 6.16** for consultee comment.
PEDW ID.12	NRW recommend that the night-time lighting assessment should include an assessment of the impact on dark skies, to include how lighting would affect characteristics and qualities of the landscape as an environmental resource. PEDW concur with this advice, an assessment of dark skies is scoped into the ES.	A Night-time LVIA of Aviation Lights (or 'Aviation Lighting Impact 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 Assessment[24]. **Section 6.16** includes the location of three preliminary night-time viewpoints for agreement with consultees.
PEDW ID.13	The evaluation of landscape sensitivity uses a four-point range, and the evaluation of visual sensitivity uses a three-point range. CCBC raise concerns with this approach as it does not sufficiently reflect the complexity of the range of landscape value or its susceptibility to change. CCBC recommend that a five-point range (very low through to very high) is used to provide a more nuanced and detailed assessment covering the whole continuum for both landscape and visual sensitivity.	To ensure consistency with the methodology submitted and agreed as part of the LVIA for the Trecelyn Wind Farm, which is located approximately 1.2km the north of the Proposed Development (within the area administered by CCBC), the methodology has maintained a four-point landscape and visual sensitivity which ranges from High to Very Low.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
PEDW ID.14	PEDW direct that the LVIA should include an assessment of potential impacts on receptors beyond 10km, notably the Bannau Brycheiniog NP and on the Wye Valley NL. The ES should include further analysis and evidence to determine whether a significant effect would occur on these receptors. PEDW direct that the impact on visual impacts beyond 10km, notably the Bannau Brycheiniog NP, and on the Wye Valley, NL are scoped into the assessment.	A detailed assessment of the effects on the Special Qualities and Landscape Character of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and Wye Valley National Landscape is included in **Appendix 6I** and **Appendix 6J** respectively and the findings are reported in **Sections 6.10** and **Section 6.11**. Visual effects are reported in **Section 6.13**.
PEDW ID.15	The applicant's attention is drawn to detailed comments from Bannau Brycheiniog NPA at appendix 1, within which they highlight a number of projects that should be considered in the cumulative impact assessment. The assessment should also include cumulative impact on the dark skies. PEDW direct that the cumulative impact assessment should be undertaken in accordance with NSIP Advice Note: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment.	The wind farm projects highlighted by the NPA in its response have been included in the detailed assessments, visualisations and cumulative ZTVs. As noted under the response to PEDW ID.12, the cumulative assessment on dark skies will be included as part of the Night-time LVIA of Aviation Lights, to be submitted as part of the Final ES.

6.4 Data gathering methodology

Study Area

LVIA Study Area

6.4.1. LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (GN46)[16] advises that the LVIA Study Area for structures of a height of 176m to 225m should extend to a 26km to 28km distance from each of the proposed turbine locations. In accordance with the Scoping Direction, the LVIA Study Area of 27km has been utilised for the Proposed Development which has a maximum turbine height of 180m 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 27km as illustrated in **Figure 6-6** and the cumulative ZTVs presented in **Figures 6-16a-e**.

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 6.5**.

Table 6.5 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[25].	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[26] and accompanying report[27].	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[28].	Baseline information on the special qualities of the National Park.
	Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment[29].	Baseline information on landscape character within the National Park.
Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee	Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2021-2026[30]	Baseline information on the special qualities of the National Landscape.

[25] 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 (Accessed September 2025)
[26] Natural Resources Wales (2025) *Tranquillity and Place: Visually Tranquil Areas* (online). Available at: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/865c1876d9f64280a3dfc6e2769a46a5 (Accessed September 2025)
[27] 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 (Accessed September 2025)
[28] 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 (Accessed September 2025)
[29] Fiona Fyfe Associates with Countryscape, Alison Farmer Associates and Julie Martin Associates (2012) *Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment.* (online). Available at: https://beacons-npa.gov.uk/planning/draft-strategy-and-policy/landscape-character-assessment/ (Accessed September 2025)
[30] Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee (2021) *Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021-2026*. (online). Available at: https://www.wyevalley-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Wye-Valley-AONB-Management-Plan-2021-26-finalised.pdf (Accessed September 2025)

Organisation	Data source	Data provided
CCBC	Designation of Special Landscape Areas[8],[31]	Provides baseline information on the SLAs within the area administered by CCBC.
	Designation of Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs)[8],[32]	Provides baseline information on the VILLs within the area administered by CCBC.
	Public Rights of Way – online mapping resource[33]	Provides the location and reference for Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within the area administered by CCBC.
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)	Proposals for Designation of Special Landscape Areas in Blaenau Gwent[34]	Provides baseline information on the SLAs within the area administered by BGCBC
BGCBC (on behalf of five local authorities that cover the Heads of the Valleys study area)	Heads of the Valleys Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development – Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study[35]	This study covers five local authorities including the host local authority: CCBC plus BGCBC; Torfaen County Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough Council; and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. As set out in its methodology, the Study is confined to wind turbine developments that do not exceed a planned capacity of 5MW i.e. for a maximum of two turbines over 109m blade tip height. Nevertheless, aspects of the Study are likely to remain relevant to the Proposed Development.
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	Designation of Special Landscape Areas[36]	Provides baseline information on the SLAs within the area administered by TCBC
Newport City Council (NCC)	Designation of Special Landscape Areas[37]	Provides baseline information on the SLAs within the area administered by NCC.
Sustrans	National Cycle Routes[38]	Provides details of National Cycle routes within the LVIA Study Area

[31] TACP (2008) *Designation of Special Landscape Areas*. (Online). Available at: https://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/Examination/PDF/SB47.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[32] TACP (2008) *Designation of Visually Important Local Landscapes*. (Online). Available at: https://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/pdf/Caerphilly-Designation-of-VILLs-Final-Report-April-2008.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[33] CCBC (2025) *Public Rights of Way – Online Mapping Resource*. (Online). Available at: https://caerphillycbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=16e6161474204099a3cef48ab061b315 (Accessed September 2025)
[34] Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect (2009) *Proposals for Designation of Special Landscape Areas in Blaenau Gwent*. (Online). Available at: https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/media/e1cchnlw/sd110.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[35] Gillespies (2015) *Heads of the Valleys Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development - Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study*. (Online). Available at: https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/media/aszpnh3c/volume-2-hov-smaller-scale-wind-turbine-development-landscape-sensitivity-and-capacity-study-april-2015-copy.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[36] TACP. (2011). *Designation of Special Landscape Areas*. (Online). Available at: https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Related-Documents/Forward-Planning/SD67-DesignationofSpecialLandscapeAreas(versionuploadedMay2011.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[37] TACP (2009) *Designation of Special Landscape Areas*. (Online). Available at: https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Planning-Documents/LDP-2011-2026/Special-Landscape-Area-June-2013.pdf (Accessed September 2025)
[38] Sustrans (2025). 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 (Accessed September 2025)

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 180m and 112m 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.

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 (180m) at 1:200,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of the 28 viewpoints included in the LVIA;
- **Figure 6-3**: illustrates the ZTV calculated to hub height (112m) at 1:200,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of the 28 viewpoints included in the LVIA;
- **Figure 6-4**: illustrates a detailed ZTV calculated to blade tip height (180m) at 1:100,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of 24 of the 28 viewpoints included in the LVIA (1-22, 26 and 27); and
- **Figure 6-5**: illustrates a detailed ZTV calculated to hub height (112m) at 1:100,000 scale (at A3 paper size) and includes the locations of 24 of the 28 viewpoints included in the LVIA (1-22, 26 and 27).

Wind Farms relevant to the cumulative assessment

6.4.8. Other existing and consented wind farms, and wind farm applications within the cumulative LVIA 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 6.6**. This is based on data gathered in August 2025 and reflects the situation as of 31 August 2025. 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 6.6 Wind Farms relevant to the cumulative assessment

Ref	Name of wind farm	Local Authority	Number of wind turbines	Approximate distance from Proposed Development	Height to blade tip (m)	Status
E01	Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate	CCBC	1	6.3km	124	Existing
E02	Oakdale Business Park	CCBC	2	6.5km	130	Existing
E03	Pen Y Fan Ganol Farm	CCBC	1	8.5km	74	Existing
E04	Bryn Ysgawen Farm	CCBC	1	6.2km	77	Existing
E05	Tyle Crwth	CCBC	1	6.4km	76	Existing
E06	Gelli-wen Farm	CCBC	1	11.2km	79	Existing
E07	Cruglwyn	CCBC	2	12.6km	83	Existing
E08	Solutia	NCC	2	13.4km	130	Existing
E09	Pen Bryn Oer	CCBC	3	17.9km	77	Existing

Ref	Name of wind farm	Local Authority	Number of wind turbines	Approximate distance from Proposed Development	Height to blade tip (m)	Status
E10	Tesco Distribution Centre	NCC	2	18.2km	100	Existing
E11	Ferndale	RCTBC	8	23.7km	73	Existing
E12	Liwyncelyn Farm	RCTBC	2	19.6km	125	Existing
E13	Fforch Nest	Bridgend/ RCTBC	11	25.8km	115	Existing
E14	Taff Ely	RCTBC	20	25.9km	53	Existing
E15	Mynydd Portref	RCTBC	11	25.4km	75/86	Existing
E16	Mynydd Portref Extension	RCTBC	6	24.5km	110	Existing
C01	Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn	BGCBC	8	8.6km	180	Consented
C02	Mynydd Y Glyn	RCTBC	7	19.6km	180	Consented
C03	Twyn Hywel	CCBC	14	9.8km	200	Consented
C04	Manmoel	BGCBC	5	12.9km	180	Consented
A01	Trecelyn	CCBC	4	1.2km	145	Application
A02	Mynydd Llanhilleth Resubmission	BGCBC/ Torfaen	7	5.8km	180	Application
A03	Mynydd Maen	CCBC	13	2.4km	149	Application
A04	Abertillery	BGCBC/ Torfaen	6	9.8km	200	Application
A05	Convatec Green Manufacturing Hub	CCBC	3	18.5km	150	Application
S01	Mynydd Bedwellte	BGCBC	9	13.3	180	Scoping / Post PAC
S02	Llanwonno Energy	RCTBC	8	18.0km	150-200	Scoping / Post PAC

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

6.4.10. Five 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 five ZTVs and the schemes included in each are as follows:

- **Figure 6-16a**: Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in relation to Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen wind farms;

- **Figure 6-16b**: Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in relation to Abertillery and Mynydd Llanhilleth wind farms;
- **Figure 6-16c**: Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in relation to Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel wind farms;
- **Figure 6-16d**: Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in relation to Twyn Hywel and Mynydd y Glyn wind farms; and
- **Figure 6-16e**: Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in relation to Oakdale and Pen Y Fan Industrial Estate and Pen Y Fan Ganol Farm wind turbines.

Survey work

6.4.11. A number of field surveys have been undertaken as follows:

- A field survey in April 2025 to obtain viewpoint photography under winter conditions;
- A second field survey in May 2025 to visit and obtain viewpoint photography from the viewpoint locations requested by consultees in the Scoping Direction;
- A further field survey in July 2025 to obtain additional photography from locations where the previous weather conditions had given rise to poorer visibility.

6.4.12. All photography has been undertaken in accordance with the LI's Visual Representation of Development Proposals[18]. 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 50mm 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 6.7** which includes the reason for their selection and whether the viewpoints are representative, illustrative, or specific as defined in GLVIA3[14].

6.4.16. Visualisations have been prepared for each viewpoint to accord with SNH guidance[17] and include 90° baseline photographs and wirelines (including cumulative wirelines where relevant), 53.5° wirelines and 53.5° and 90° photomontages in **Figures 6-18 – 6-45**. The viewpoint assessment for each of the 28 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 6-18 – 6-45**.

Table 6.7 LVIA Viewpoint locations

VP No.	Viewpoint location and grid reference	Distance to nearest turbine (km)	Viewpoint Typology (GLVIA3) / Principal Receptor(s)	Rationale
1	Dan-Y-Rhiw Terrace, West End, Abercarn 321212, 195172	1.8km (T1)	Representative – residential receptors	Representative of the views available to residents on the western side of the Ebbw Valley and its closest point to the Proposed Development.
2	Twmbarlwm Iron Age Fort summit 324200, 192612	1.9km (T3)	Specific and representative – recreational receptors	Northern side of the summit noted on OS maps as providing 360 degrees views. Popular with locals and visitors with carpark provided. Representative of the clearest views likely to be available to users of the Cambrian Way and Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge path to the south of the Proposed Development.
3	Open space on Old Pant Road, Pantside 321975, 197866	3.3km (T2)	Representative – residential receptors	Representative of the views available to residents in elevated locations on the eastern side of the Ebbw Valley to the immediate west of the Proposed Development.
4	Trig point at the summit of Mynydd Maen/Mynydd Llwyd 325996, 197811	3.5km (T2)	Representative – recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to users of the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge path, the local PRoW network and the open access land to the immediate east of the Proposed Development.
5	Open space on Fflorens Road, Treowen 320863, 198034	4.0km (T1)	Representative – residential receptors	Representative of the views available to residents in elevated locations on the western side of the Ebbw Valley to the west of the Proposed Development.
6	Mynydd Machen 322336, 190119	4.6km (T1)	Representative – recreational receptors	Representative of elevated northerly views available to users of a number of long-distance routes (including the Cambrian Way, the Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk and the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk), the PRoW network and open access land within the preliminary ZTV.
7	Rhymney Valley, Ridgeway Walk 317091, 192654	6.2km (T1)	Representative – recreational receptors	SLA, users of the PROW long distance path
8	Monnow Way, Bettws 328727, 190296	6.4km (T3)	Representative – residential receptors	Representative of the views available to residents in elevated locations, west of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, to the southeast of the Proposed Development.
9	Pen-y-Fan Pond Country Park 319660, 200695	6.9km (T1)	Specific – recreational receptors	The view available to visitors to the park. The clearest view of the Proposed Development is likely to

VP No.	Viewpoint location and grid reference	Distance to nearest turbine (km)	Viewpoint Typology (GLVIA3) / Principal Receptor(s)	Rationale
				be from the PRoW/ Access Land on track through northern part of the park.
10	PRoW east of St. Illtyd 322079, 201870	7.0km (T1)	Representative – residential and recreational receptors	Representative of the middle-distance views available to residents of elevated properties and users of the dense PRoW network in the vicinity of St. Illtyd/Llanhiledd to the north of the Proposed Development.
11	Cefn Fforest/ Blackwood Show Fields 316737, 197951	7.1km (T1)	Representative – residential and recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to residents and users of a popular recreational area.
12	B4236, Llanfrechfa 331612, 193748	7.7km (T3)	Representative – residential receptors and road users	Representative of the views available to residents and road users of the B4236 on the eastern side of the Llwyd Valley to the east of the Proposed Development.
13	Northern edge of Gelligaer 313315, 197072	9.9km (T1)	Representative – residential and recreational receptors	Representative of the middle-distance views available to residents of elevated properties and users of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and PRoW network to the north of Gelligaer, to the west of the Proposed Development.
14	Wellfield Close, west of Coed-y-paen 333146, 198409	10km (T2)	Representative – recreational receptors	Representative of the views available to recreational receptors accessing Llandegfedd Lake Visitor & Activity Centre as well as road users of Wellfield Close, west of Coed-y-paen, to the east of the Proposed Development.
15	Lasgarn Lane, BBNP 328863, 204152	10.4km (T2)	Representative – recreational receptors	Located on the edge of the BBNP. Representative of the middle-distance views available to visitors to the BBNP and users of the Cambrian Way, Monmouthshire Way and Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge path to the north-east of the Proposed Development.
16	Gelligaer Common and Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk 312691, 199372	11.3km (T1)	Specific and representative – recreational receptors	Representative of the views available from the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk, local PRoW network and access land within the Gelligaer SLA and Gelli-Gaer Common Historic Landscape.
17	Caerphilly Common 315308, 185545	11.9km (T1)	Specific – recreational receptors	Views available to users of the popular viewpoint within Caerphilly Common access land and South Caerphilly SLA.

VP No.	Viewpoint location and grid reference	Distance to nearest turbine (km)	Viewpoint Typology (GLVIA3) / Principal Receptor(s)	Rationale
18	Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk on Mynydd Mieo 311435, 188372	13.2km (T1)	Representative – recreational receptors	Representative of the long-distance views available to users of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk, local PRoW network and access land on elevated areas within the highly fragmented ZTV to the south-west of the Proposed Development.
19	Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk on Cefn y Brithdir 313068, 203596	12.5km (T1)	Representative – recreational receptors	Representative of the long-distance views available to users of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk, local PRoW network and access land on Cefn Y Brithdir, to the west of New Tredegar, to the north-west of the Proposed Development.
20	Wales Coast Path, Newport 331082, 182776	13.8km (T3)	Representative – recreational receptors	Located on the Wales Coast Path near West Usk Lighthouse at the confluence of the River Usk and Ebbw River, south of Newport. Representative of the long-distance views available to users of sections of the Wales Coast Path to the south of the Proposed Development.
21	Summit of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn 318714, 208498	14.3km (T2)	Representative – recreational receptors	Representative of the long-distance views available to users of the local PRoW network and access land on Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and other elevated areas to the north of the Proposed Development.
22	Bertholey House, Newbridge on Usk 339542, 194489	15.7km (T3)	Representative – residential and recreational receptors	Located on the Usk Valley Walk within Bertholey House Registered Historic Park and Garden, to the south-east of the Proposed Development. Representative of the long-distance views available to residents and those engaged in outdoor recreation in parts of the south-eastern quadrant of the LVIA Study Area.
23	The Blorenge, BBNP 326986, 211842	17.1km (T2)	Specific – recreational receptors	Long-distance view from this popular viewpoint within the BBNP and Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site, to the north of the Proposed Development.
24	Trig point at Mynydd Llangynidr, BBNP 314711, 215924	22.7km (T2)	Representative – recreational receptors	Representative of the most elevated long-distance views available to users of the PRoW network and open access land in parts of the BBNP within the preliminary ZTV, on the northern edge of the LVIA Study Area.

VP No.	Viewpoint location and grid reference	Distance to nearest turbine (km)	Viewpoint Typology (GLVIA3) / Principal Receptor(s)	Rationale
25	Trig Point at Cefn yr Ystrad, BBNP 308829, 213677	23.7km (T1)	Representative – recreational receptors	Long-distance elevated view from the trig point and open access land within the BBNP. Additional viewpoint within the BBNP, as requested by NRW.
26	Raven Walk within the Mynyddislwyn SLA 320060, 193837	3.0km (T1)	Representative – recreational receptors	Viewpoint requested by CCBC.
27	B-Road and PRoW within the Abercarn VILL 323081, 196514	1.6km (T1)	Representative – recreational receptors and road users.	Viewpoint requested by CCBC.
28	Llanishen, Wye Valley National Landscape 347183, 203500	24.9km (T2)	Representative – residential and recreational receptors.	Viewpoint within the WVNL requested by CCBC.

6.5 Overall baseline

Current baseline

The Site and immediate surrounding area

6.5.1. The Site lies within the CCBC and TCBC administrative areas and comprises a mix of semi-improved and unimproved grassland.

6.5.2. The Site is located on the upper slopes (between approximately 350m and 440m AOD) of ridges that extend to the west and south-west of the massif formed by Mynydd Llwyd, Mynydd Twyn-glas and Mynydd Maen. To the north of the Site, the landscape is the deeply incised and heavily afforested valleys of Nant Gwyddon, which joins the Ebbw River at Abercarn. Beyond this, several tributaries of the Ebbw River have created a complex of ridges and valleys that reduce in elevation westward toward the valley of the Ebbw River. The most southerly of these is the steep-sided Cwm Hafod-fach, the northern end of which is occupied by the Hafod sandstone quarry. The landform surrounding the Site and within the wider LVIA Study Area is illustrated in **Figure 6-7**.

6.5.3. The Site is traversed by several restricted byways and footpaths as follows (as shown on **Figure 12-4** and **15-1**):

- Restricted byway RBW/189/1, which is crossed by the proposed access track as it crosses the landscape to the west of its junction with the Mynydd Maen access track;
- Restricted byway RBW/192/1, which passes to the south of T2 and is crossed by the proposed T1/T2 access track and T2 crane pad;
- Footpath FP205/1 which passes to the east of T3 and is crossed by the proposed T3 access track and crane pad;
- Restricted byways RBW191/2 and RBW195/2 which pass north and south of T1 respectively and RBW195/1 which is crossed by the T1 access track; and
- Restricted byways RBW194/1, RBW191/1 and RBW193/1, the junctions of which would be crossed by the T1 access track.

6.5.4. The Site access would also cross Open Access Land which extends across Mynydd Maen to the east of the Site (as shown on **Figure 15-1**).

6.5.5. There are several residential properties within or in close proximity to the Site including (from west to east) Cefn Rhyswg Farm, a cluster of properties at Stabal To Carreg (Bwthyn Mamgu, Tri Carreg and Stabal To Carreg) and Rhyswg-ganol. The outskirts of Abercarn and Newbridge are located approximately 1km and 2km to the west and northwest of the Site, respectively whilst the settlement of Cwmcarn lies approximately 2km to the east of the Site and Crosskeys is approximately 2km to the south. Cwmcarn Forest lies to the south of the Site and includes (amongst other things) a visitor centre, tourist accommodation, play area and bike trail.

National Landscape Character

6.5.6. At the national scale of NRW's 48 National Landscape Character Areas[25] (NLCAs), the 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 Blaenafon 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, versus 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; and,
- Iconic cultural identify - 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 **Figure 6-8**.

LANDMAP

Introduction

6.5.8. 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 GN46[16]. The filtering process described within GN46[16] is set out in **Appendix 6B**. A landscape sensitivity assessment which considers both value and susceptibility in accordance with GLVIA3 is reported for each Aspect Areas included in the LVIA in **Appendix 6C**.

Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

6.5.9. The outcome of the filtering process recorded in **Appendix 6B** (as outlined in GN46[16]) identified two GLAAs to be considered further in the assessment as follows:

- CYNONGL001 Upper Ebbw valley; and
- CYNONGL002 Nant Gwyddon.

6.5.10. The location of the GLAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figure 6-9a**. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C.**

Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (LHAAs)

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

- CYNONLH149 Unnamed;
- CYNONLH150 Unnamed;
- CYNONLH151 Unnamed; and
- CYNONLH161 Unnamed.

6.5.12. The location of the LHAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figure 6-9b**. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C.**

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

6.5.13. The filtering process outlined in GN46[16] is recorded in **Appendix 6B**. The Viewpoint Analysis presented in **Appendix 6K** identified no significant visual effects beyond a distance of 7.1km. 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 10km buffer of the proposed turbines. The landscape assessment therefore considers the following 28 VSAAs:

- **BLNGWVS119 Mynydd Pen-y-fan;**
- **BLNGWVS226 St. Illtyd;**
- **BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte;**
- **BLNGWVS713 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley;**
- **BLNGWVS808 Cwm Tyleri;**
- **CYNONVS129 Mynydd Y Grug;**
- **CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen;**
- **CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen;**
- **CYNONVS404 Gelligaer Common;**
- **CYNONVS854 Mynydd Y Lan;**
- **MNMTHVS016 Cilfeigan Park and Woodlands;**
- **MNMTHVS036 Sor Brook valley;**
- **MNMTHVS085 Llandegfedd Reservoir;**
- **NWPRTVS010 Lower River Usk;**
- **NWPRTVS011 River Usk;**
- **NWPRTVS013 Machen Slopes;**
- **NWPRTVS014 Maescoed;**
- **NWPRTVS018 Alt-yr Yn;**
- **NWPRTVS019 Gaer;**
- **NWPRTVS022 Ebbw River Corridor;**
- **NWPRTVS023 Tredegar Park;**
- **NWPRTVS026 Usk Floodplain;**
- **TRFNVS019 Unnamed;**
- **TRFNVS022 Unnamed;**
- **TRFNVS024 Unnamed;**
- **TRFNVS027 Unnamed;**
- **TRFNVS033 Unnamed; and**
- **TRFNVS044 Unnamed.**

6.5.14. The location of these VSAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figures 6-9c** and **6-9d**. A baseline description is provided in **Appendix 6C**.

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

6.5.15. The outcome of filtering process outlined in GN46 and recorded in **Appendix 6B** identified 140 HLAAs within the 27km LVIA Study Area, 47 of which lie within or partially within 10km of the proposed turbines and are therefore considered further in the landscape assessment as follows:

- **BLNGWHL025 Mynydd Coety;**
- **BLNGWHL034 Cwmtillery;**
- **BLNGWHL037 Maes Mawr;**
- **BLNGWHL041 Hafod y dafal;**
- **BLNGWHL044 St Illtyd Fieldscape;**
- **BLNGWHL045 Llanhilleth;**
- **CynonHL004 Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate;**
- **CynonHL007 Cwmcarn forestry;**
- **CYNONHL290 Llanfabon and Llanbradach;**
- **CYNONHL308 Senghenydd and Cwm yr Aber;**
- **CYNONHL374 Twmbarlwm and Medart;**
- **CYNONHL831 Gelligaer Common;**
- **CYNONHL878 Mynyddau Eglwysilian a Meio;**
- **MNMTHHL053 Tregrug - Llanhunog;**
- **NWPRTHL001 Michaelston le Fedw Rolling Hills;**
- **NWPRTHL003 Tredegar Park;**
- **NWPRTHL004 Mescoed Mawr;**
- **NWPRTHL007 Park Farm;**
- **NWPRTHL016 Caerleon/Isca Silurum;**
- **NWPRTHL022 East Usk and Llanwern Industrial;**
- **NWPRTHL023 Newport Historic Centre;**

- **CYNONHL405 Rhyswg;**
- **CYNONHL426 Maes Manor Hotel;**
- **CYNONHL465 Ebbwy Settlement Corridor;**
- **CYNONHL556 Mynydd Bach and Mynydd-y-Grug;**
- **CYNONHL558 Cwm Dows and Cwm Philkins;**
- **CYNONHL586 Castell-y-Van;**
- **CYNONHL596 Rudry;**
- **CYNONHL602 Nant Bargod Rhymni;**
- **CYNONHL634 Gelligaer and Llancaiach;**
- **CYNONHL660 Blackwood and the Sirhowy Valley;**
- **CYNONHL663 Lower Rhymney Valley;**
- **CYNONHL720 Cefn Mably House;**
- **CYNONHL816 Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd;**
- **NWPRTHL027 Tredegar Park Historical Setting;**
- **NWPRTHL032 Newport Docklands;**
- **NWPRTHL036 Lower Machen Corridor;**
- **NWPRTHL045 St Woolos Cemetery;**
- **NWPRTHL048 River Usk;**
- **TRFNHL001 Cwmbran;**
- **TRFNHL002 Edlogan and Tregrug;**
- **TRFNHL004 Llantarnam Abbey;**
- **TRFNHL005 Cefn Mynach Grange;**
- **TRFNHL006 Henllys;**
- **TRFNHL014 Mynydd Garnclochdy;**
- **TRFNHL015 Cwm Afon; and**
- **TRFNHL019 Waun-wen and Mynydd Llanhilleth.**

6.5.16. **Figures 6-9e** and **6-9f** 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)

6.5.17. The filtering process outlined in GN46 and recorded in **Appendix 6B** identified two CLSAAs to be considered further in the assessment as follows:

- CYNONCLS026 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen; and
- CYNONCLS050 Mynydd Maen.

6.5.18. The location of these CLSAAs in relation to the proposed turbine locations and the blade tip ZTV is shown on **Figure 6-9g**.

Landscape designations

Nationally designated landscapes

6.5.19. The following nationally designated landscapes fall wholly or partly within the LVIA Study Area as shown on **Figure 6-10** (Sheets 1 to 4):

- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park; and
- Wye Valley National Landscape.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP)

6.5.20. The BBNP boundary is illustrated in **Figures 6-10** (Sheets 1 to 4) and **6-11** 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 8.2km from the Proposed Development.

6.5.21. The baseline description of the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the BBNP, as defined in Y Bannau The Future, A Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028[28] is set out in **Appendix 6I**, alongside an assessment of effects undertaken in accordance with NatureScot's Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects[23].

6.5.22. A review of the SLQs 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.

6.5.23. There would be no effect on the SLQs related to the physical characteristics of the BBNP or on those relating to culture and the community.

6.5.24. With regard to landscape character, the Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment[29] defines 15 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the National Park, five of which coincide with the ZTV and LVIA Study Area as shown in **Figure 6-11** as follows:

- LCA 8: Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys;
- LCA 9: Mynyddoedd Llangatwg and Llangynidr;
- LCA 12: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf;
- LCA 13: The Black Mountains; and
- LCA 15: Blorenge Hills and Slopes.

6.5.25. A complete list of the distinctive characteristics of each LCA as defined in the extant Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment[29] is included in the landscape assessment tables for the LCAs, which are contained in **Appendix 6I**.

Wye Valley National Landscape (WVNL)

6.5.26. The WVNL is located at a minimum distance of approximately 23.9km from the Proposed Development. The WVNL boundary is illustrated in **Figures 6-10** (Sheets 1 to 4) and **6-12** which is overlapped by the blade tip ZTV, indicating the maximum extent of theoretical visibility across the National Landscape.

6.5.27. The baseline description of the 27 SLQs of the WVNL, as defined in the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2021-2026[30] is set out in **Appendix 6J**. This forms part of the assessment of effects on the SLQs, undertaken in accordance with NatureScot's Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects[23], and reported in **Appendix 6J.**

6.5.28. A review of the SLQs and the changes or threats associated with each (as defined in Table 8 of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021-2026[30]), undertaken as part of Stage 2 of the assessment of effects (**Appendix 6J**), concludes that the following should be included in the assessment as they relate to visual and perceptual aspects of the WVNL:

- SLQ1: 16 Landscape Management Zones with key features;
- SLQ11: Picturesque, extensive & dramatic views; and
- SLQ12: Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness / wildness.

6.5.29. There would be no effect on the SLQs related to the physical characteristics of the WVNL or on those relating to culture and the community.

6.5.30. The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2021-2026[30] also defines a series of Landscape Management Zones (LMZs), each with a set of key features. With reference to **Figure 6-12**, three LMZs on the western periphery of the WVNL coincide with the LVIA Study Area and blade tip ZTV as follows:

- LMZ12 Llangovan Foothills;
- LMZ13 Devauden Escarpment; and
- LMZ14 Trellech Sandstone Plateau.

6.5.31. A description of the key features of the three LMZs is contained within **Appendix 6J**.

Locally designated landscapes

6.5.32. A number of locally designated landscapes are entirely or partly located within 10km of the proposed turbines as follows:

- SLAs; and
- VILLs: these are areas within Caerphilly Borough that contribute to the visual qualities of the landscape but do not meet the criteria for designation as SLAs. They represent areas that are generally of "*some Visual and Sensory importance but that did not rate sufficiently in conjunction with other aspects to justify inclusion within the new SLA system. However, it is felt that these areas require some form of protective designation, for which the title of Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL) has been created*."[32]

6.5.33. The SLAs and VILLs which coincide with the blade tip ZTVs and have been scoped into the LVIA (**Section 6.7**) are set out in **Table 6.8**. This includes a description of the landscape qualities and features and any management policies as derived from the published data sources included in **Table 6.5**. The locations of these areas are shown on **Figure 6-10** (Sheets 1-4) in relation to the blade tip ZTV for the Proposed Development.

Table 6.8 Landscape qualities and features of the local landscape designations scoped into the LVIA

Local landscape designation	Description
Caerphilly Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs)	

Local landscape designation	Description
NH2.3 Abercarn **Viewpoints located within the VILL: VP2 (Figure 6-19), VP4 (Figure 6-21) and VP27 (Figure 6-44)**	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this VILL are as follows: ● "*The VILL includes Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd and consists of an upland area of ridges and valleys, much of which consists of a woodland mosaic of conifers (providing winter greenery) and mixed woodland, giving a sense of enclosure.* ● *Some views are restricted by forestry but open ridgelines afford views across adjacent wooded valleys. Coniferous plantation flanks areas of heath (which provide autumn colour) and grassland.* ● *The visual values of these aspects are, in part, dependent upon the contrast with each other. Visual detractors (vertical elements including pylons) on the open ridgeline have reduced the visual and sensory evaluations for both."*[8] Key Policy. Management and Development Control Issues for the VILL which are of relevance to the Proposed Development, include: ● "*Seek to conserve and enhance the existing field patterns and sense of openness through the development process. Hedgerows should be promoted as the appropriate preference for all development proposals that involve boundary treatments.* ● *Preserve and enhance the pastures, hedgerows and woodlands to protect and enhance the visual quality of the VILL. Consideration of a structured approach to boundary management, particularly the cycle of hedgerow cutting to maintain the distinctive pattern of hedgerow trees should be implemented."*[8]
NH2.2 Manmoel	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of the VILL are as follows: ● "*The VILL is predominantly an upland landscape with a strong sense of openness. The Upland feel of the landscape increases with elevation as views increase in quality. The upland area is characterised by rough grassland with scattered woodland, hedgerows and narrow lanes and affords views down valleys and to plantation woodland. Manmoel Common falls within this upland area and is characterised by the same landscape qualities. This upland area forms the northern tip of the VILL.* ● *It is generally a rolling hilly landscape with a distinctive field pattern/ mosaic of grown-out beech hedging and typical stonewalls. The conditions of the boundaries are poor but the former gives the impression of dense woodland from outside the area and has a strong, sculptural quality. Unsympathetic division into paddocks is threatening the existing field patterns.*"[8] The key management policies relate to the conservation of field patterns and sense of openness as well as

Local landscape designation	Description
	controlling vegetation and boundary management practices.
NH2.4 Rudry	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this VILL are as follows: ● *"This is a wide valley with a rolling rural landscape that gently slopes upwards to the south. The steepness of the slopes increase as the land rises up to areas such as Caerphilly and Rudry Common. On the slopes, bracken and coniferous plantations dominate.* ● *Land use is a mix of pastoral farmland with small / medium sized fields, which is predominantly grazed. Scattered farmsteads sit within this attractive and fairly intact rural landscape. There is slight parkland / estate feel to the whole area.* ● *The predominant boundaries are hedgerows with scattered blocks of broad leaved and mixed woodland.* ● *The area marks a visual boundary between Caerphilly and Cardiff."*[8] Key Policy, Management and Development Control Issues for the VILL include the conservation and enhancement of the existing field patterns and boundary treatments and the preservation of the openness of areas of higher ground with no unacceptable encroachment or erosion of this open character. Appendix 2 also states that "*All development should value the visual landscape quality and the rural parkland feel of the area.*"[8]
Caerphilly Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) **NH1.2 Gelligaer** **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP13 (Figure 6-30) and VP16 (Figure 6-33)**	The recorded Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA (with regard to Visual and Sensory characteristics) are as follows: ● *"An open, extensive, exposed and an increasingly rare upland landscape in South East Wales. It has distinct visual and sensory characteristics with extensive views over the coalfield plateau and up to the Brecon Beacons. Rock outcrops impart a strong upland character tempered by urban presence to south of area. Dramatic views all around with stonewalls being the predominant boundary treatment.* ● *The landscape exhibits numerous examples of continuity of land use from prehistoric times, rough grazing and bracken and scattered rural farms. Sheep and horses grazing present throughout the whole of the area.* ● *The eastern flank of the SLA is typified by more rolling landscape pattern interspersed with woodland blocks, spinneys and hedgerows.* ● *Wind noise is a dominant factor, which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. Noise and movement is more noticeable within a generally quiet landscape."*

Local landscape designation	Description
	The key management policies relate to the protection of upland habitats, historic/ cultural landscape features and boundary features. They also seek to improve public access, conserve lowland landscape buffers and resist settlement edge development pressures.
NH1.3 Mynydd Eglwysilan **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP18 (Figure 6-35)**	This SLA incorporates the whole of the Mynydd Eglwysilan area to the north of Abertridwr and Senghenydd, together with the more lowland, agricultural landscapes around Nelson, and the Llancaiach Fawr estate. The recorded Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA (with regard to Visual and Sensory characteristics) are as follows: ● *"This is not a remote landscape due to the proximity of the valleys to their associated urban areas. The upland ridge is open with panoramic and sometimes dramatic views over upland and adjoining valleys. A pleasant landscape, with some attractive rolling farmland away from the built form of urban edges.* ● *Land cover is predominately rough grazing with bracken. There is a mixture of boundary treatments across the SLA. Rolling farmland hedgerows and stock proof fencing are the predominant boundary treatments, although there are some traditional stonewalls present.* ● *Some visual clutter of pylons slightly detracts from this otherwise wild / exposed typical upland area with a strong sense of place."* The key management policies relate to management to conserve lowland and upland habitats contributing to character as well protection of historic and cultural landscape elements. Protection from development pressures on settlement boundaries, prevent the area becoming too cluttered with incongruous vertical elements, including pylons and turbines and long-term management of forestry plantation, including at Llanbradach with resultant effects upon visual qualities of the landscape, are also listed.
NH1.4 North Caerphilly **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP6 (Figure 6-23) and VP7 (Figure 6-24)**	The recorded Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA (with regard to Visual and Sensory characteristics) are as follows: ● "*It is a relatively gentle, rolling valley side, rising up to Mynydd y Grug. Much of the area looks down on to Caerphilly and across the Rhymney Valley giving it an open feel. Views from the countryside out onto urban areas and carboniferous plantations can detract from the value of the area. Towards the south east of the SLA near Machen the slopes are steeper and more wooded resulting in a more enclosed and upland feel which dominate the landscape.* ● *The lower valley sides are characterised by a mosaic landscape habitats of rough pasture, semi-improved grassland interspersed with hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small spinneys.*

Local landscape designation	Description
	● *The landform is a mix of pastoral farmland in field enclosures, woodland blocks, both broadleaved and coniferous plantation all exhibiting features typical of the former coalfield valleys. Also, present is Bracken, which dominates the steeper / higher slopes in areas such as Mynydd Dimlaith.* ● *A mixture of boundary treatments are present across the SLA, although these are, in general, currently poorly managed and of varying quality."* The key management policies relate to the protection of habitats associated with public access, field boundary features. Long-term management priorities include the effect of woodland and plantation on the visual character, the loss of character as a result of settlement edge development pressure and the potential to enhance the PRoW network.
NH1.5 South Caerphilly **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP17 (Figure 6-34)**	The SLA forms a buffer zone between Caerphilly and the M4 corridor to the south. It also forms the visual context and setting for the historic town of Caerphilly. The recorded Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA (with regard to Visual and Sensory characteristics) are as follows: ● *"A wide valley that gently slopes upwards to the south. The steepness of the slope increases as the land rises up to areas such as Caerphilly and Rudry Common. The dominant views are across the valley and down into the valley with the settlements, predominantly Caerphilly, being the focal points.* ● *The land is a mix of pastoral farmland on the lower and gentle slopes with coniferous woodland dominating the higher areas. Scattered rural buildings and farms are the Primary settlement pattern.* ● *There is a mixture of boundary treatments, although the hedgerows, which often contain mature species of trees, are the most prominent. There are some stonewalls, but these are generally in poor condition.* ● *The main visual detractor of this SLA is the coniferous plantations that are out of place in the more lowland areas."* Key Policy, Management and Development Control Issues include the preservation of the openness of higher ground and prevention of any encroachment into the SLA, the reinstatement of broadleaved woodland, particularly around the edges of the coniferous woodland areas to reduce the dominance of the coniferous woodland and to reduce the impact of recreational activity on habitats and landscape quality. Issues also include the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of the existing hedgerows, banks and stonewalls as good examples of the typical boundary treatments in the SLA.
NH1.6 Mynyddislwyn **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP26 (Figure 6-43)**	The recorded Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA (with regard to Visual and Sensory characteristics) are as follows:

Local landscape designation	Description
	● *"A relatively small, but distinct landscape unit formed by the open, upland ridge of Mynydd y Lan to the north of Cwmfelinfach and west of Abercarn. It represents a key open upland area in a fairly intensively developed part of the borough, which has not totally been given over to commercial forestry plantations, such as further east at Cwmcarn and Coed Medart.* ● *The open ridge is surrounded on two sidesby plantations covering the steep valley sides, which form a distinctive backdrop to the settlements on the valley floors.* ● *It also includes the more enclosed agricultural area of Mynydd Islwyn, which is a mixture of rough pasture and grazing land."* The key management policies relate to the retention of the open character of Mynydd y Lan as well as the protection of the farmed landscape, historic/ cultural landscape features and resistance to settlement edge development pressures. Long-term management of plantation and the associated effects on the visual qualities of the SLA are also a priority.
Torfaen SLAs **C2/1 Llandegfedd Reservoir**	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are recorded as follows: "*The reservoir covers an area of just over 175 hectares (430 acres) and was opened in 1965 by Newport Corporation. It forms a visually distinct landscape element, and from its hinterland pleasant views are afforded over the wider, rolling agricultural landscape to the east, and the valley of the Sor Brook to the south. Although enclosed it has a strong sense of place reflecting the unity of the landscape character. Designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for over wintering and migrating birds it also forms an important recreational and cultural function, being important for sailing, wind surfing and fishing. The landscape around the reservoir is underlain by rocks of the Silurian inlier of the north-south Usk antiform, which is an important geological outcrop that extends eastwards into Monmouthshire*"[36]. The key policy and management issues relate to the ongoing recreational use of the reservoir and the requirements in developing landscape management proposals that reflect its SSSI status.
C2/2 South Eastern Lowlands **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP12 (Figure 6-29)**	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are recorded as follows: "*A rolling, lowland agricultural landscape, ranging from 30-110 metres AOD. It forms a quiet, secluded area to the east of Cwmbran with scattered settlements pattern, Llanfrechfa being the main village in the area. This part of the SLA has a strong visual unity eastwards into Monmouthshire. The southern part of the SLA includes the grounds of Llantarnam bbey which is included on the*

Local landscape designation	Description
	Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest. However, the presence of roads and more urban influences associated with lantarnam Business Park and Ponthir give a more discordant feel to the area. The landscape is typified by a patchwork of small to medium sized fields bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees and interspersed with a range of small and some larger woodland blocks. A number of these retain many of their ancient semi-natural woodland features which contributes to the overall quality of the area. The main river valley of Torfaen, the Afon Lwyd dissects the SLA at Ponthir as it runs southwards into the Usk."[36] The key policy and management issues relate to the ongoing pressure for development (particularly around Llantarnam and Llanfrechfa Hospital), the retention of lowland agricultural landscape pattern of hedge bounded fields with hedgerow trees, spinneys and woodlands and the loss of quality of settlement edges with inconsistent boundary treatment, fly tipping etc.
C2/3 Southern Lowlands	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA, as recorded by the Designation of Special Landscape Areas[36], are as follows: "*A large area of pleasant rolling, lowland agricultural landscape formed by a series of enclosed hollows and valleys ranging between 20 and 150 metres AOD. It provides for a distinct sense of enclosure and isolation. The majority of the area is of medium scale with muted colours. The western edge rises slightly higher to some 200 metres AOD on the lower side slopes of Mynydd Henllys. It includes Henllys Bog, designated a SSSI, a rich soligeneous lowland fen. Around Henllys are remnants of an earlier medieval landscape characterised by irregular field patterns although the majority of the area is post medieval, with regular fields bounded by hedgerows and in places hedgebanks. With associated sunken lanes there are a number of small spinneys and larger woodlands scattered across the area such as Coed Y Twlch near Greenmeadow. The Monmouthshire-Brecon Canal crosses the eastern part of the areas as does part of the National Cycle network – Lon Las Cymru. There are a number of detractors, particularly along the northern edge of the area on boundary with Cwmbran, and in the Cwmbran Drive area to the east. Furthermore, the area is crossed by a number of overhead power lines*."[36] The key policy and management issues are noted as being the pressure for development, particularly along the northern and eastern boundaries, the maintenance and management of agricultural landscape features, hedgerows and trees, hedge banks, spinneys and woodlands and the management of the Monmouthshire – Brecon Canal corridor.
C2/4 South West Uplands **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP4 (Figure 6-21)**	The SLA comprises an area of rising ground to the west of Cwmbran running up to the County Borough boundary along Mynydd Henllys and Mynydd Maen, including part of Upper Cwmbran. The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features are described as follows:

Local landscape designation	Description
	"*An area of upland hillside and scarp slopes, typified by rough pasture, rising up to 460 metres AOD. The southern section has extensive woodland cover, primarily coniferous but includes areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved habitat, elsewhere it is characterised by dry terrestrial heath and unimproved acid grasslands. It includes important geological features, Mynydd Henllys being the site of an ancient rotational landslip, and the area contains substantial coal reserves. The area also exhibits medieval and post medieval agricultural landscapes, such as on Mynydd Maen, with later industrial relics making it an archaeologically sensitive area. The settlement of Upper Cwmbran predates the Newtown development and reflects the earlier development and land use of the area*"[36]. The key management policies relate to the management of open upland landscapes, management and development of plantations, the management of agricultural landscape features (field boundaries and woodlands) and the impacts resulting from recreational use.
C2/7 Afon Llwyd Valley	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are described as follows: "*A lowland valley landscape running up to the edge of the upland commons, up to 300 metres AOD. It has two distinct yet interrelated landscape types. From Blaenavon southwards to Cwmavon, the landscape is one of a network of enclosed fields, bounded by hedgerows, with hedgerow trees and interspersed with small broad leaved woods. The settlement pattern is scattered with individual farms and small groups of houses. It results in a balanced landscape form and character with a muted sense of colour, albeit autumn colour is an important feature of the SLA. It retains many elements of the post- medieval/urban industrial landscape with a number of relict features including disused railways. Its historical value is recognised by its inclusion within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site area. Southwards from Cwmavon, the landscape is more enclosed albeit still reflecting the relict agricultural landscape pattern. The last third of the SLA is formed by the extensive mixed woodland of Lasgarn Wood/Companys Wood and Freehold Wood. These contain important remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland.*" [36] The key management policies relate to the management of relief historic landscape features and the management and development of woodland habitats and features.
C2/8 Western Uplands	The SLA is centred on an area of uplands and upland agricultural landscapes to the west of Abersychan, Garndiffaith and Varteg. The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features are recorded as: *"An area of mixed landscapes including an open upland plateau which rises to 550 m AOD and includes the peaks of Brygwm, Waun Wen and Gwastad. This is dissected by a series of small valleys, more enclosed and vegetated*

Local landscape designation	Description
	with a regular pattern of small side fields bounded by hedgerows and walls and small areas of broadleaved woodland. The uplands have a vast, open character, mostly covered in dry heathland and acid grasslands but with a strong sense of place. As with much of the area, the SLA exhibits the impacts of post medieval industrial landscapes upon the post medieval agricultural landscape which results in the area being archaeologically sensitive." [36] The Statement of Value for this SLA does not define key management policies.
Blaenau Gwent SLAs	
ENV2.1 St. Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP10 (Figure 6-27)**	This SLA lies in the far south-eastern part of Blaenau Gwent and is continuous with the Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James SLA, their joint boundary being the extent of the enclosed farmland. The area consists of two distinct landscape types; the plateau, which is rare in Blaenau Gwent for being the only extensive area of enclosed farmland whilst to the west and south, the plateau drops away forming the steep, well-wooded Ebbw Fach valley sides, including several small side valleys. The entire SLA is largely undisturbed by industrialisation. There are nine landscape qualities and features identified for this SLA, as defined in the Statement of Value. On the basis that this is not the host SLA and therefore could sustain no direct (physical) landscape effects, the only landscape quality and feature which is pertinent to the LVIA relates to "*Panoramic views especially west and south, to other plateau landscapes*"[34].
ENV2.2 Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James	The extensive Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James SLA lies north of the Site. All of the open land of the eastern ridge, and its slopes to the Ebbw Fach valley (excluding Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn) are included within the SLA. There are three main landscape types within this area: ● *"the large majority is open upland common land, in places extending down the valley sides as well as over the ridges and rising to the highest point in Blaenau Gwent on Coity Mountain.* ● *The remainder of the Ebbw Fach valley sides are a mosaic of woodland and fields as well as areas of tips and past workings.* ● *The northern slopes, overlooking the Heads of the Valleys and Brynmawr, are a mix of open hillsides and fields, pockmarked with past tipping and extraction."* [34] There are five landscape qualities and features (as defined in the Statement of Value) identified for the Open upland part of this SLA, three for the Valley sides and a further three for the Northern slopes. On the basis that this SLA lies outside of the Site and, as a consequence, could sustain no direct landscape effects, only one of these 11 landscape qualities and features is pertinent to the LVIA and relates to "*Remote and bleak in contrast to adjacent valley, with panoramic and distant views, and forming distinctive and remote skylines*"[34].

Local landscape designation	Description
ENV2.4 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail **Viewpoints located within the SLA: VP21 (Figure 6-38)**	This SLA comprises the main north-south ridge in the centre of the county, between the Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valleys. The full length of the ridge is within Blaenau Gwent (unlike the other ridges) and it shows landscapes typical of all the ridges. There are four main landscape types within this area: ● *"There is the central open upland ridge.* ● *On either side are steep Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley sides, with their mix of open land, reclaimed land and tips, quarries and rough ground.* ● *In the north the more rounded slopes overlooking the Heads of the Valleys are a mix of fields, un-reclaimed tips and recreational uses.* ● *On the southernmost lower parts of the ridge there are fields with dense forestry on the adjacent steep valley sides."*[34] There are 17 landscape qualities and features identified for this SLA, as defined in the Statement of Value. On the basis that this is not the host SLA and therefore could sustain no direct (physical) landscape effects, the only landscape quality and feature which is pertinent to the LVIA relates to "*Panoramic views across to other ridges*"[34]. The key policies and management priorities include conserving the remoteness and tranquillity.
ENV2.6 Cefn Manmoel	This SLA covers the northwest-southeast ridge and sides between the Sirhowy valley and the Ebbw Fawr. There are four main landscape types within this area: ● *"There is the open upland ridge, extending from Hilltop southward to above Cwm.* ● *The northwestern slopes overlook the Sirhowy Valley and are covered with a mix of planted woodland and open fields.* ● *The eastern part, being the steep Ebbw Fawr valley sides, have a varied profile and areas of tipping, quarrying, reclaimed land and open commonland, as well as dense forestry in the south.* ● *The southern part of the ridge, a long slither of which is in this SLA, is covered with a distinctive field pattern relating to the old settlement of Manmoel."*[34] Only the Manmoel Plateau and Ebbw Fawr Sides, located towards the southern end of the designation lie within 10km of the Proposed Development. The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features for these two landscape types are as follows: "*Ebbw Fawr sides:* ● *Varied backdrop to valley settlements*

Local landscape designation	Description
	● *Extensive area of cSINC around Garden City, for mosaic habitats including dwarf shrub heath and mesotrophic lakes, LBAP habitats.* ● *Rich archaeological remains of industry, including tips, levels, inclines, quarries.* ● *Includes stretches of river where not culverted.* ● *Enclosed quality of steep forested sides in south.* *Manmoel plateau:* ● *Part of wider historic pattern of fields around ancient settlement of Manmoel (in Caerphilly) of considerable historic and cultural value.* ● *Distinctive beech hedges.* ● *Some unimproved grassland habitats*."[34] The relevant Key Policies and Management for the Manmoel Plateau relate to the conservation of remoteness and tranquillity.
Newport SLAs **SP8(i) North of Bettws**	This SLA covers a relatively small area of undisturbed, agricultural landscape between the settlement of Bettws and the local authority boundary with Torfaen. Its Primary Landscape Qualities and Features are recorded as follows: "*The area covers an undulating hidden section of the agricultural landscape rising up to 70m AOD on the borders of Torfaen. It is an area of narrow sunken lanes bounded by strong hedgebanks which include hedgerow trees. The landscape pattern consists of a mosaic of woodlands enclosing the fields e.g.: Mill Wood, Garth Fach and Coed Craig y Ceilliog. It is underpinned by a lowland escarpment dissected by a number of small streams, its eastern boundary is formed by the Monmouth Brecon Canal*"[37]. Key policy and management issues primarily relate to the maintenance of distinctive landscape elements such as the woodlands and hedgebanks.
SP8(ii) West of Rhiwderin	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this SLA are as follows: ● *"An extensive area of lowland, rolling, agricultural landscape, extending from the western edge of Newport at Rhiwderin up towards the boundary with Caerphilly and southwards down to the M4 corridor. It is dominated by a high promontory of land rising over 200 metres AOD at Coed Mawr. This is formed by an outcrop of old red sandstone rocks overlain by Carboniferous Limestone. The southern part of the proposed SLA rises to some 115m AOD at Penylan and affords extensive views southwards across the Gwent Levels onto the Severn Estuary and beyond.*

Local landscape designation	Description
	• *The field pattern is medium to small scale, and sinuous in form being a relict post medieval farmed landscape.* • *An important feature of the area is the extensive areas of woodland around Coed Mawr in the north, and Park Wood in the south. They are not only important landscape elements but also of nature conservation value, including Plas Machen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Park Wood cSNCI and Coed Mawr West cSNCI.* • *It is an historically important landscape, the A468 follows the line of the old Roman road from Caerleon to Caerphilly. It is also the location of Plas Machen, a grade II* Listed Elizabethan gentry house which was the home of Morgan family before they moved to Tredegar House. The garden is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens in Wales.* • *It remains a largely tranquil landscape, with only localised disturbance from the principal roads and forms an important rural buffer to the west of Newport."*[37] Key policy and management issues relate to the retention of woodland cover and the maintenance of historic landscape features, grasslands and field boundaries.
SP8(iv) River Usk	The Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of the River Usk SLA are as follows: • *"A strongly linear feature until it opens out around Caerleon, the primary element being the tidal River Usk. The tidal range provides dramatic contrasts below high and low tide, and the river remains an important biodiversity resource both for the fish within it and as a corridor for otters to pass through the city.* • *The proposed boundary follows that of the SSSI/SAC designation, effectively the top of the river bank. Where the river leaves the city to the north there are areas of playing field and open space that do not justify inclusion with the proposed SLA boundary. At Caerleon, the boundary takes into account the important historic and cultural landscape features that underpin the importance both of the town and its setting. It also includes the floodplain which provides the visual landscape link between the river and the town whose development has been so influenced by this* • *location. Notwithstanding the other policy measures that relate to Caerleon, in landscape terms it is important that these wider qualities as identified within the Landmap study are properly recognised by their inclusion within the SLA.*

Local landscape designation	Description
	● *The vegetation along the course of the river varies but is primarily of a marginal, riparian character - reed beds, marsh, scrub and in places tree groups."* [37] Key policy and management issues relate to the enhancement and improvement of the quality of urban waterside environment, increasing access to riverside for recreational use, vegetation management and the management of historic landscapes at Caerleon.

Visual baseline

6.5.34. 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 receptors[39]. 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

6.5.35. 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.

6.5.36. 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.

6.5.37. Settlements[40] within 10km of the proposed turbines that are overlapped in full or part by the ZTV are as follows:

1. Abercarn (Llanfach, Persondy, Celynen, High Meadow, West End);
2. Cwmcarn and Pontywaun;
3. Pantside;
12. Bargoed and Gilfach;
13. Pen-pedair-heol, Gelligaer and Penybryn;
14. Hengoed;
15. Tredomen;

[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.

4. Newbridge/Trecelyn (Treowen, Old Treowen, Cwm Dows) and Pentwyn-mawr;
5. Crosskeys;
6. Swffryd;
7. Llanhilleth and Brynithel;
8. Aberbeeg;
9. Pen-twyn and Trinant;
10. Caerphilly;
11. Pontyminster;
16. Cwmbran;
17. Ponthir
18. Caerleon
19. Malpas
20. Bettws
21. Newport (St Julians and Barnardtown)
22. Rogerstone
23. Garth Place

6.5.38. It should be noted that views from scattered residential properties outside settlements and within 2km of the proposed turbines will be considered as part of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), which will be set out in **Appendix 6L** of the Final ES. The assessment methodology used in the RVAA is set out in **Appendix 6A**. Individual or small groups of residential properties within 2km of the proposed turbines that are overlapped by the ZTVs and that are proposed to be included in the RVAA, are illustrated by **Figures 6-17a** and **6-17b**.

Visual receptors: Recreational routes and destinations

6.5.39. 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.

6.5.40. The Viewpoint Analysis presented in **Appendix 6K** identified no significant visual effects beyond a distance of 10km. As a consequence, the visual assessment has focussed on all receptors within 10km of the proposed turbines. However, national level receptors such as National Trails and Sustrans Cycle Routes are included within the 27km wider LVIA Study Area, as a precaution.

Sustrans National Cycle Routes

6.5.41. National Cycle Network (NCN) routes within the LVIA Study Area that are overlapped by the ZTV are shown in **Figure 6-14a**. The routes which extend to within 10km of the turbines and are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV are illustrated on **Figure 6-14b** and listed as follows:

- NCN Route 4, which passes between Newport and Caerphilly;
- NCN Route 47, which passes between Newport and west of Tredomen;
- NCN Route 49, which passes between Newport in the south and north of Pontypool, where it skirts the eastern boundary of the BBNP;
- NCN Route 88, which follows a route between Caerleon and Newport;

- NCN Route 423, which follows an easterly route between Cwmbran and Coed-y-paen within 10km of the Proposed Development;
- NCN Route 465, which forms two routes within 10km of the Proposed Development. The southern route follows the Ebbw Valley along a section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal at Crosskeys between Darran road and Pontywaun whilst the northern route follows the Ebbw Fach Valley from Llanhilleth, in the south, to Bryn Mawr;
- NCN Route 466, which links Pontypool in the east with Ebbw Vale in the north via the valley of the Cwm y Glyn and the Ebbw Fach Valley;
- NCN Route 467, which follows the Sirhowy Valley from Blackwood in the south, to New Tredegar in the north; and
- NCN Route 469; which links Bargoed and Fochriw.

Designated long-distance footpaths

6.5.42. The Wales Coast Path is a 1,400km nationally promoted footpath around the coastline of Wales. Of the eight sections listed on the dedicated website[41], the 157km Section 8 South Wales Coast & Severn Estuary passes through the LVIA Study Area as illustrated on **Figure 6-14a**, at a distance of ~10.9km from the Proposed Development.

6.5.43. A number of regionally promoted long-distance footpaths also pass through the LVIA Study Area as shown on **Figure 6-14a**. Those within 10km of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the ZTV are shown in **Figure 6-14b** and listed as follows:

- Cambrian Way;
- Celtic Way;
- Cistercian Way;
- Ebbw Valley Walk;
- Monmouthshire Way;
- Raven Walk;
- Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk.
- Taith Torfaen Anything Challenge;
- Torfaen Trail; and
- Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk.

Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and Open Access Land

6.5.44. Open Access Land within 10km of the Proposed Development that is overlapped by the ZTV is shown in **Figure 6-15b** along with the dense network of local PRoW and are assessed under the following groups:

- Open Access Land and PRoW within 5km of proposed turbines;
- Open Access Land and PRoW between 5km-10km of the proposed turbines; and

[41] https://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/?lang=en (Accessed September 2025)

- Notable hill summits and Open Access Land within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (beyond 10km) (**Figure 6-14a**).

Outdoor Recreational Facilities, Historic Parks and Gardens and Country Parks

6.5.45. 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

- Tredegar Park;
- St Woolos Cemetery; and
- Maes Manor Hotel.

Country Parks

- Pen-y-Fan Pond Country Park;
- Sirhowy Valley Country Park;
- Parc Coetir Bargod Country Park; and
- Parc Penalta Country Park.

Visual receptors: transport routes

6.5.46. 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.

6.5.47. Transport routes within 10km of the proposed turbines and that are overlapped by the ZTV are listed as follows:

- A467;
- B4591;
- A472;
- A4048;
- A4049;
- A469;
- B4471;
- B4251;
- B425;
- B4254;
- A468;
- A4042;
- A4051;
- A48;
- A4046; and
- M4.

Future baseline

6.5.48. 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).

6.5.49. 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.

6.5.50. 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 defined 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. With regard to the woodland closest to the Site, 26.5% of the woodland within the Cwmcarn Forest is Standard Conifer High Forest. These coniferous forests form peripheral areas surrounding a core area of Ancient Woodland which comprises 53.2% of the woodland stock within the Cwmcarn Forest[42]. The Management Systems Map[42] for the Cwmcarn Forest indicates that 46% of the woodland was scheduled to be felled between 2015 and 2026 (i.e. before the Proposed Development) whilst only 9.2% is scheduled to be felled between 2027 and 2042+, with 35% allocated for minimal intervention or a low impact silvicultural systems approach.

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 Wales[43] which states "*The construction of large-scale wind and*

[42] National Resources Wales (2014) *Cwmcarn Forest Design Plan – Long Term Objectives Map*. (Online). Available at: https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/strategies-plans-and-policies/forest-resource-plans/cwmcarn-forest-resource-plan/?lang=en (Accessed September 2025)
[43] 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 September 2025)

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 series of wind turbines.

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 10 in Future Wales the National Plan 2040. 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 **Sections 4.8** and **4.9** of **Chapter 4: Development Description. Table 6.9** outlines how these embedded measures will influence LVIA.

Table 6.9 Summary of the embedded environmental measures

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Embedded measures	Compliance mechanism
Construction			
Trees	Tree removal to accommodate access tracks and clearance of all trees/tree groups within the calculated bat buffer zones of each turbine.	Compensatory tree planting would be implemented in accordance with PPW 12. The proposed planting exceeds PPW 12 requirements, so as to optimise long-term landscape and ecological benefit. A 5:1 (replacement: loss) ratio would be applied regarding trees of high arboricultural quality (A grade), with a 4:1 ratio applied for trees of moderate arboricultural quality (B grade), and a 3:1 ratio applied for trees of low arboricultural quality (C grade). Compensatory planting in relation to tree groups requiring removal comprise broadleaf trees only, such that compensatory planting equivalent to a minimum of 1,600 trees per hectare would also be implemented. As set out in the Illustrative Compensatory Planting Strategy in **Appendix 8E**, planting would utilise species that are reflective of the areas lost and planting locations have been chosen so as to ensure healthy establishment, ensuring unconstrained, long-term growth to optimise environmental benefits. A management/maintenance regime would be applied to all retained and newly created habitats to ensure their successful establishment and long-term benefit.	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) secured via DNS condition
Grassland	Some instances of habitat loss (unimproved and semi-improved grassland) would be temporary and reinstated during the construction stage in/ adjoining working areas, wind turbines, substation, tracks and temporary construction	Revegetation and reinstatement. Where permanent loss occurs, loss would be offset by mitigation planting elsewhere on site as compensation and enhancement would be provided.	CEMP and Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) secured via DNS condition

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Embedded measures	Compliance mechanism
	compounds. Cable routes would be buried below ground and reseeded/ managed as appropriate grassland habitat. Existing access points, roads and tracks have been used where possible to minimise vegetation loss, and to provide betterment to existing roads.		
Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	Access along some PRoWs within the Site will be required to be temporarily managed during construction. Safety signs will also be required during construction and operation. In most circumstances PRoW users should be able to use footpaths and bridleways during construction. However, it is accepted that some may choose not to do so. The Applicant will therefore provide a temporary, permissive route away from the areas, subject to construction, for use by walkers and horse riders prior to the commencement of construction.	Safety signage and temporary closures. Set out in full in **Table 4.3** of **Chapter 4: Development Description**.	CEMP with PRoW Management Plan 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

6.7.1. The scope of this assessment has been established through an ongoing scoping process. Further information can be found in **Chapter 2: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment**.

6.7.2. This section provides an update to the scope of the assessment and updates the evidence base for scoping out elements following further iterative assessment.

The Proposed Development

6.7.3. All aspects of the Proposed Development will be considered in the LVIA.

Spatial Scope

6.7.4. The spatial scope of the assessment of landscape and visual effects covers the area of the Proposed Development contained within the red line boundary, together with the 27km radius LVIA Study Area, as defined in accordance with GN46[16] and the Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs). The cumulative assessment also covers a 27km radius Study Area.

6.7.5. 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 three proposed turbines. Details of the method used to produce the ZTVs is provided in **Appendix 6A**.

6.7.6. **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 180m and hub height of 112m.

Temporal Scope

6.7.7. 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 (considered in a proportionate manner in accordance with ID.5 of the Scoping Direction).

6.7.8. A Night-time LVIA of Aviation Lights (or 'Aviation Lighting Impact 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 Assessment[24].

Potential Receptors

6.7.9. The landscape and visual receptors that have been identified as being potentially subject to effects are summarised in **Table 6.10**.

Table 6.10 Landscape and visual receptors subject to potential effects

Receptor	Reason for consideration
Landscape receptors **LANDMAP VSAAs, HLAAs, GLAAs, LHAAs and CLSAAs filtered into the assessment.**	The LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward to the detailed assessment are derived from the process outlined in GN46[16] which intends to focus the

Receptor	Reason for consideration
	detailed assessment on the potentially sensitive aspect areas most likely to be affected.
Nationally (statutory) designated landscapes and their character/ special qualities: Bannau Brycheniog National Park and Wye Valley National Landscape	The Bannau Brycheniog National Park and Wye Valley National Landscape, occurring within the ZTV for the Proposed Development, are landscapes of national importance and high sensitivity.
Locally designated landscapes entirely or partly located within 10km of the boundary of the Site and within the ZTVs.	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 communities within the LVIA Study Area and ZTVs.	Typically, high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Residential visual receptors in private residences within 2km of the Proposed Development and within the blade tip ZTV.	Typically, high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for substantial adverse effects upon residential visual amenity.
Recreational receptors using sections of Sustrans NCRs routed through the LVIA Study Area and within the ZTVs.	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 ZTVs.	Typically, high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Recreational receptors using Open Access Areas within the ZTVs (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 in LVIA Study Area such as Country Parks and within the ZTVs	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 which coincide with the ZTVs	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

6.7.10. 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 6.11**.

6.7.11. 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 7.1km, even for high sensitivity receptors. As a consequence, a conservative buffer of 10km from the turbine locations has been applied and receptors of local or regional importance have been considered within this 10km buffer.

Table 6.11 Summary of effects scoped in for further assessment

Receptor	Justification
LANDMAP VSAAs, HLAAs, GLAAs, LHAAs and CLAAs **As derived from the filtering process set out in Appendix 6B and which lie within 10km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11).**	**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**:

Receptor	Justification
	● Direct effects on the host landscape character and potentially landscape elements as a consequence of turbine erection and operation are likely to be significant. ● Indirect effects related to the visibility of the turbines and their effect on landscape character and perceptual characteristics have the potential to be significant.
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park is located at a separation distance of approximately 8.2km from the Proposed Development. Given that this is a landscape of high value, indirect effects upon its special qualities and landscape character have the potential to be significant.
Wye Valley National Landscape	The closest proposed turbine would be theoretically visible from the Wye Valley National Landscape at a separation distance of approximately 23.9km. Whilst this is a landscape of high value, indirect effects upon its special qualities and landscape character are unlikely to be significant at this distance. However, the National Landscape has been included as a receptor in accordance with the ID.14 of the Scoping Direction.
Caerphilly VILLs and SLAs entirely or partially within 10km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11): **VILLs:** ● **NH2.3 Abercarn;** ● **NH2.2 Manmoel; and** ● **NH2.4 Rudry.** **SLAs:** ● **NH1.2 Gelligaer;** ● **NH1.3 Mynydd Eglwysilan;** ● **NH1.4 North Caerphilly;** ● **NH1.5 South Caerphilly; and** ● **NH1.6 Myynddislwyn.**	**Construction and decommissioning phases:** ● Direct effects upon the host VILL (NH2.3 Abercarn) as a consequence of the site preparation and construction and decommissioning 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 VILL (NH2.3 Abercarn) and the landscape qualities and features for which it has been designated as a consequence of turbine erection, operation and decommissioning are likely to be significant. ● Indirect effects upon the remaining CCBC SLAs (and the landscape qualities and features for which they have been designated), as a consequence of turbine erection, operation and decommissioning may be significant.
Torfaen SLAs entirely or partially within 10km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11): ● **C2/1 Llandegfedd Reservoir;** ● **C2/2 South Eastern Lowlands;** ● **C2/3 Southern Lowlands;** ● **C2/4 South West Uplands;** ● **C2/7 Afon Llwyd Valley; and** ● **C2/8 Western Uplands.**	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: Indirect effects upon six Torfaen CBC SLAs (and the landscape qualities and features for which they have been designated), as a consequence of turbine erection, operation and decommissioning may be significant.

Receptor	Justification
Blaenau Gwent SLAs entirely or partially within 10km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11): ● **ENV2.1 St Illtyd Plateau & Ebbw Eastern Sides;** ● **ENV2.2 Eastern Ridge & Mynydd James;** ● **ENV2.4 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail; and** ● **ENV2.6 Cefn Manmoel.**	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: Indirect effects upon four BGCBC SLAs (and the landscape qualities and features for which they have been designated), as a consequence of turbine erection, operation and decommissioning may be significant.
Newport SLAs entirely or partially within 10km of the proposed turbines (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11): ● **SP8(i) North of Bettws;** ● **SP8(ii) West of Rhiwderin; and** ● **SP8(iv) River Usk.**	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: Indirect effects upon three Newport SLAs (and the landscape qualities and features for which they have been designated), as a consequence of turbine erection, operation and decommissioning may be significant.
Visual receptors **Residential receptors in the closest properties (within 2km 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.
Residential receptors in communities substantially within the blade tip ZTV and within 10km of the Proposed Development (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11).	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: ● Effects on views and visual amenity from erection and eventual decommissioning of the wind turbines; and ● Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines.
Recreational receptors using National Sustrans Cycle Routes within the LVIA Study Area and which coincide with the blade tip ZTV.	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: ● Effects on views and visual amenity from erection and eventual decommissioning of the wind turbines; and

Receptor	Justification
	● Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines.
Recreational receptors using nationally promoted footpath routes within the blade tip ZTV and the LVIA Study Area and regionally promoted footpath routes within the blade tip ZTV and within 10km of the Proposed Development (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11).	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: ● Effects on views and visual amenity from erection and eventual decommissioning of the wind turbines; and ● Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines.
Recreational receptors at visitor attractions in LVIA Study Area such as Country Parks within the blade tip ZTV and within 10km of the Proposed Development (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11).	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: ● Effects on views and visual amenity from erection and eventual decommissioning of the wind turbines; and ● Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines.
Recreational receptors in extensive upland Access Areas and at popular summits within LVIA Study Area (where not included in other categories): ● **Open Access Land and local PRoWs within 5km of proposed turbines;** ● **Open Access Land and local PRoWs between 5km-10km of the Site; and** ● **Notable hill summits and Open Access Land within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (beyond 10km).**	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: ● Effects on views and visual amenity from erection and eventual decommissioning of the wind turbines; and ● Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines.
Vehicular receptors travelling along 'A' and 'B' roads and any promoted tourist routes within the blade tip ZTV and within 10km of the Proposed Development (as set out in paragraph 6.7.11).	**Construction, operational and decommissioning phases**: ● Effects on views and visual amenity from erection and eventual decommissioning of the wind turbines; and ● Effects on views and visual amenity resulting from visibility and movement of the proposed wind turbines.

6.7.12. The receptors/ effects detailed in **Table 6.12** have been scoped out from further assessment because the potential effects are considered unlikely to be significant.

Table 6.12 Summary of effects scoped out of the LVIA

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
All LANDMAP Aspect Areas that do not fulfil the criteria set out in GN46[16] and are beyond 10km from the proposed turbines	The filtering process set out within GN46[16] 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 effects are not anticipated beyond 10km.

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
Local landscape designations that are located beyond 10km or are predominantly or entirely outside of the blade tip ZTV.	The viewpoint analysis in **Appendix 6K** indicates that significant effects are not anticipated beyond 10km. The Newport SLA SP8(iv) River Usk extends to within 10km of the Site although this section lies almost entirely outwith the ZTV, with further screening provided by built development within Newport. As a consequence, significant indirect landscape effects are not anticipated.
Visual effects on recreational receptors within the WVNL	With regard to the requirement to access the visual effects on recreational receptors within the WVNL (PEDW ID.14 in Table 6.4, **Figure 6-15a** confirms that there are no areas of Open Access Lane within the part of the National Landscape which coincides with the LVIA Study Area and ZTV. Effects on the views of the users of the Cistercian Way, which coincides with the blade tip ZTV as it passes through Chepstow Wood within the WVNL are considered under this receptor group. Furthermore, the viewpoint assessment in **Appendix 6K** concludes that only a Very Low magnitude of change would be experienced by receptors at Viewpoint 28 (with a resulting Not Significant effect). As a consequence, an assessment of the visual effects on recreational receptors within the WVNL has not been considered further as a receptor category.
Visual Receptors outwith the ZTV	All receptors within the LVIA Study Area that are outwith the blade tip ZTV would have no view of the Proposed Development and are scoped out, as agreed with consultees and recorded in **Table 6.4**.

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**, and specifically in **Sections 2.5** to **2.8**. 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 GLVIA3[14] 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 effects is determined with reference to landscape or visual sensitivity and the magnitude of landscape or visual change experienced. For each receptor, the evaluation process is informed by use of a matrix, in **Table 6.13**, that sets out the level of effects and whether this is significant or not significant.

Table 6.13 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			

6.9 Preliminary assessment of landscape effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas

Geological Landscape Aspect Areas

6.9.1. A detailed assessment of the effects upon the two 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 6.14** which confirms that there would be no significant landscape effects.

Table 6.14 Summary of effects: GLAAs (operational phase)

Aspect Area Reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
CYNONGL001 Upper Ebbw valley	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONGL002 Nant Gwyddon	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium-Low	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None

Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas

6.9.2. A detailed assessment of the effects upon the four 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 6.15**. There would be no significant landscape effects.

Table 6.15 Summary of effects: LHAAs (operational phase)

Aspect Area Reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
CYNONLH149 Unnamed	Low	Low	Low	Medium to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONLH150 Unnamed	High	Low	Medium	Low	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant
CYNONLH151 Unnamed	Medium	Low	Low	Zero	None
CYNONLH161 Unnamed	High	Low	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas

6.9.3. The assessment of effects upon the 28 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 6.16**, with significant landscape effects indicated in **bold**.

Table 6.16 Summary of effects: VSAAs (operational phase)

Aspect Area Reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Host VSAAs					
CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	Medium	Medium	Medium	High to Zero	**Major/ Moderate and Significant to None**
CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium to Zero	**Moderate and Significant to None**
Other VSAAs					
BLNGWVS119 Mynydd Pen-y-fan	High	Medium	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to None
BLNGWVS226 St. Illtyd	High	Medium	High	Medium to Zero	**Major/ Moderate and Significant to None**
BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte	High	Medium	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to None
BLNGWVS713 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley	High	Medium	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
BLNGWVS808 Cwm Tyleri	High	Medium	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to None
CYNONVS129 Mynydd Y Grug	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONVS404 Gelligaer Common	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
CYNONVS854 Mynydd Y Lan	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None

Aspect Area Reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
MNMTHVS016 Cilfeigan Park and Woodlands	High	Medium	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
MNMTHVS036 Sor Brook valley	High	Medium	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
MNMTHVS085 Llandegfedd Reservoir	High	Medium	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS010 Lower River Usk	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS011 River Usk	High	Medium	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS013 Machen Slopes	High	Medium	High	Low to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS014 Maescoed	High	Medium	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS018 Alt-yr Yn	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS019 Gaer	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS022 Ebbw River Corridor	Medium	Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS023 Tredegar Park	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
NWPRTVS026 Usk Floodplain	High	Medium	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
TRFNVS019 Unnamed	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
TRFNVS022 Unnamed	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None

Aspect Area Reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
TRFNVS024 Unnamed	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Medium to Zero	**Moderate and Significant to None**
TRFNVS027 Unnamed	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
TRFNVS033 Unnamed	High	Medium-Low	Medium	Very Low to Zero	Minor and Not Significant to None
TRFNVS044 Unnamed	High	Medium	High	Medium to Zero	**Major/ Moderate and 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 6.17** with significant landscape effects indicated in **bold**.

6.9.5. For the remaining 44 HLAAs which have been scoped into the LVIA and for which indirect effects may occur, the assessment will be reported as part of the Final ES (**see Section 6.16**).

Table 6.17 Summary of effects: HLAAs (operational phase)

Aspect Area Reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Host HLAAs CYNONHL405 Rhyswg	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	**Major/ Moderate and Significant**
CYNONHL816 Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium to Zero	**Moderate and Significant to None**
CynonHL007 Cwmcarn forestry	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate 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 two 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 6.181920**. No CLSAAs are predicted to experience significant landscape effects.

Table 6.181920 Summary of effects: CLSAAs (operational phase)

Aspect Area Reference and name	Landscape value	Landscape susceptibility	Overall landscape sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
CYNONCLS026 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	Medium	Medium-Low	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to None
CYNONCLS050 Mynydd Maen	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate and Not Significant to None

6.10 Preliminary assessment of landscape effects: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Special Landscape Qualities

6.10.1. **Appendix 6I** provides a detailed assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs 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 effects[23], and has been informed by **Figures 6-10** (Sheets 1-4), **6-13** and the baseline photography and photomontages for Viewpoints 15, 23, 24 and 25, presented in **Figures 6-32, 6-40, 6-41** and **6-42** respectively.

6.10.2. The Proposed Development is not located within the BBNP, being 8.2km from its boundary. In assessing the indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the visual and perceptual SLQs of the BBNP the assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on the SLQs or the integrity of the BBNP.

6.10.3. As confirmed in **Table 6.4**, a Night-time LVIA of Aviation Lights (or 'Aviation Lighting Impact 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 Assessment[24].

6.10.4. A summary of the SLQ assessment for the BBNP is set out in **In summary**, there would significant visual effects from parts of 10 long-distance recreational routes as follows: NCN Route 465, Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge, Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk, Celtic Way, Raven Walk, Cistercian Way, Cambrian Way, Ebbw Valley Walk and the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk. Many of these routes overlap. Significant effects would typically occur along short sections of the routes.

6.10.5. **Table 6.**.

Table 6.19 21SLQ Assessment for the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Special Landscapes			
Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to 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	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to 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 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.		

Landscape Character

6.10.6. The assessment of the effects on the five LCAs within the BBNP which coincide with the blade tip ZTV as shown in **Figure 6-11** is presented in **Appendix 6I**. The conclusions of the assessment are set out in **Table 6.20** which indicates that there would be no significant landscape effects upon the key characteristics and character of the LCAs within the BBNP as a consequence of the Proposed Development.

Table 6.20 Summary of Landscape effects: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park LCAs

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
LCA 8: Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
LCA 9: Mynyddoedd Llangatwg and Llangynidr	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
LCA 12: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
LCA 13: The Black Mountains	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None
LCA 15: Blorenge Hills and Slopes	High	Low reducing to Very Low to Zero	Moderate reducing to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None

6.11 Preliminary assessment of landscape effects: Wye Valley National Landscape

Special Landscape Qualities

6.11.1. **Appendix 6J** provides a detailed assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs of the WVNL. This has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A** and with the NatureScot Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing

effects[23], and has been informed by **Figures 6-10** (Sheets 1-4), **6-12**, **6-13** and the baseline photography and wirelines for Viewpoint 28, presented in **Figure 6-45**.

6.11.2. The Proposed Development is not located within the WVNL, being 23.9km from its boundary. In assessing the indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the visual and perceptual SLQs of the WVNL, the assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on the SLQs or the integrity of the WVNL.

6.11.3. A summary of the SLQ assessment for the WVNL is set out in **Table 6.21.**

Table 6.21 SLQ Assessment for the Wye Valley National Landscape

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Overall Landscape			
SLQ1: 16 Landscape Management Zones with key feature	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None
Biodiversity			
SLQ2: Woodlands **SLQ3: The river and tributaries** **SLQ4: Species-rich grassland, including small field pattern of un/semi-improved grassland, often bounded by drystone walls or old hedges.** **SLQ5: Boundary habitat diversity & connectivity, e.g. between grassland & woodland, farmland & heathland, tidal river & ASNW, hedges &/or drystone walls, lanes, banks, verges and fields & woods.**	SLQs 2 to 5 not assessed – physical characteristics that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the WVNL boundary.		
Geological			
SLQ6: Silurian Rocks **SLQ7: Lower Devonian Old Red Sandstone** **SLQ8: Quartz Conglomerate** **SLQ9: Carboniferous Limestone** **SLQ10: Riverine geomorphology**	SLQs 6 to 10 not assessed – physical characteristics that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the WVNL boundary.		
Visual and Sensory			
SLQ11: Picturesque, extensive & dramatic views	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None.
SLQ12: Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness / wildness	High	Very Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None.
Historic Environment			
SLQ13: Prehistoric sites from Palaeolithic to Iron Age **SLQ14: Roman and early Medieval sites including Offa's Dyke** **SLQ15: Medieval Defensive and Ecclesiastical sites and associated landscapes** **SLQ16: Post-medieval industrial sites and associated landscapes** **SLQ17: Railway heritage** **SLQ18: Ancient and veteran trees** **SLQ19: Historic / registered parks and gardens** **SLQ20: Vernacular architecture: Farmsteads Commoners cottages, Estate houses**	SLQs 13 to 20 not assessed – physical characteristics that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the WVNL boundary.		

Special Landscape Quality	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
Language			
SLQ21: Welsh language & accent; Forest of Dean & South Herefordshire dialects & accents	Not assessed – cultural quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the WVNL boundary.		
Access and Recreation			
SLQ22: Old tracks: often in sunken ways &/or bounded by drystone walls **SLQ23: Offa's Dyke Path** **SLQ24: Wye Valley Walk** **SLQ25: Access land** **SLQ26: Small commons; largest are Coppet Hill, Broadmoor, Staunton Meend, Whitelye, The Hudnalls.**	SLQs 22 to 26 not assessed – physical characteristics that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the WVNL boundary.		
Other			
SLQ27: Orchards	Not assessed – physical characteristics that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the WVNL boundary.		

6.11.4. **Appendix 6J** also concludes that cumulative (additional and combined) landscape effects arising from the distant presence of a number of consented, planning application and scoping request wind farm schemes together with the Proposed Development would be Not Significant.

6.12 Preliminary assessment of landscape effects: Local Landscape Designations

Direct effects on local landscape designations

NH2.3 Abercarn VILL

6.12.1. The location of the Abercarn VILL in relation to the Proposed Development is shown on **Figure 6-10** (Sheets 1-4). This VILL would host all three proposed turbines; as well as the sections of access track to be constructed by the Applicant, substation and other ancillary infrastructure and would therefore experience direct effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

Sensitivity

6.12.2. This local landscape designation is not of the highest or national level. The statement of value for the VILL also references that the "*Value is below potential largely due to intrusion of pylons/ vertical elements*". Consequently, the value of the Abercarn VILL is assessed as Medium.

6.12.3. In terms of physical characteristics, whilst the open hill summits and ridges, comprising homogenous heathland and grassland land cover, are considered to be of generally lower susceptibility to wind energy development, the more enclosed and smaller scale mosaic of pastoral land bound by hedgerows and trees, scattered farmsteads and agricultural buildings, coniferous forestry and mixed woodland in evidence throughout the valley are characteristic of a higher susceptibility.

6.12.4. Visually, the sense of enclosure generated by forestry is evident: "*Some views are restricted by forestry*", however intervisibility across the broader landscape is achieved from more elevated parts of the VILL: *"…open ridgelines afford views across adjacent wooded valleys…This heath land and its views to the uplands should be conserved*". Although these characteristics are indicators of a

higher susceptibility, this judgement is counter-balanced to a degree by the existing presence of a large-scale overhead electricity transmission line crossing the centre of the VILL: "*Visual detractors (vertical elements including pylons) on the open ridgeline have reduced the Visual and Sensory evaluations for both*".

6.12.5. The susceptibility of the VILL is judged to be Medium. As a consequence, the overall sensitivity of this landscape to a wind farm development is assessed as Medium.

Assessment: Proposed Development

6.12.6. The three operational turbines are expected to be dominant landscape elements across hill summits and ridgelines within the VILL. The well-wooded and enclosed valleys would experience less visual intrusion with a large proportion of them lying outside the ZTV as well as benefitting from the screening influence of widespread forestry as evidenced at Viewpoint 27 (**Figure 6-44**). The open hill slopes north of Crosskeys and Risca are also outside the ZTV coverage for the Proposed Development as indicated on **Figure 6-10** (Sheets 1-4).

6.12.7. The Proposed Development would be sited within the agricultural land to the east of Abercarn, with the direct loss of grassland within the footprint of the proposed turbines, crane pads, access tracks and associated ancillary development. As recorded in the Aboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) in **Appendix 8D**, the Proposed Development would also result in the loss of 128 individual trees and 0.017ha in relation to tree groups from within the required bat buffer zones around each turbine and to accommodate the access tracks. Whilst these trees are not cited as one of the Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this landscape, the conservation and enhancement of the existing field patterns (which are defined by the trees) are recorded as one of the long-term policy, management and development control issues of the VILL. Whilst compensatory tree planting would be provided at a ratio which exceeds PPW 12 requirements (see **Table 6.9** and the Illustrative Compensatory Planting Strategy in **Appendix 8E**), so as to optimise long-term landscape and ecological benefit, the removal would still lead to the localised disruption of the established field pattern which is present across Rhyswg.

6.12.8. Despite a degree of screening being provided by the forestry (Viewpoint 27, **Figure 6-44**) from elsewhere within the VILL, the Proposed Development would introduce a new vertical human influence to the broad panoramas experienced from more elevated parts of the VILL, as evidenced at Viewpoint 2 (**Figure 6-19**) to the south of the Site and Viewpoint 4 (**Figure 6-21**) to the north-east of the Site. From areas of landscape to the north-east, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of existing large-scale vertical man-made features which already have a baseline role in this landscape.

6.12.9. The principally un-industrialised nature of the skyline profile of the VILL viewed from the adjoining settlements of Abercarn (Viewpoint 1, **Figure 6-18**), Pantside (Viewpoint 3, **Figure 6-20**) and Treowen (Viewpoint 5, **Figure 6-22**) would be altered by the Proposed Development.

6.12.10. The alteration to a proportion of the Primary Landscape Qualities and Features for which the landscape has been designated, specifically those relating to views, as a consequence of the introduction of additional large scale man-made features, as well as the disruption to the field patterns from localised tree removals, would give rise to a High magnitude of change across the Site and a Medium magnitude of change from elsewhere within the VILL which coincides with the ZTV, reducing to Zero across areas outside ZTV coverage. The level of effect would therefore range from **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, and adverse.

6.12.11. Whilst Significant effects have been concluded within this VILL, it should be acknowledged that the policy context has changed since the designation of the Abercarn VILL, with the locally designated landscape now being within a Pre-Assessed Area for Wind Energy (Area 10), where there is a presumption in favour of wind energy development subject to meeting the provisions of Policy 18 within Future Wales: The National Plan 2040[6].

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)

6.12.12. The closest operational wind turbine schemes at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate, Oakdale Business Park, Pen-y-Fan Ganol Farm and Cruglwyn together with the consented Twyn Hywel and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn would have limited influence on localised parts of this VILL (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)

6.12.13. The planning application schemes at Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen would be located within this VILL and would have a characterising influence across areas to the north and northeast of the Proposed Development. The additional and combined effect would remain **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant**, although the geographical area across which Significant effects would be experienced would extend across a greater proportion of the VILL. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.

Indirect effects on local landscape designations

6.12.14. For the remaining local landscape designations entirely or partly located within 10km of the proposed turbines and that have been scoped into the assessment (as set out in **Section 6.7**), landscape effects would be indirect. The location of the local landscape designations in relation to the Proposed Development and the blade tip ZTV is shown in **Figure 6-10** (Sheets 1-4) and the assessment of effects will be included as part of the Final ES.

6.13 Preliminary assessment of visual effects

Visual effects on views from settlements and residential properties

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

6.13.2. There are nine individual or small groups of residential properties within 2km of the proposed turbines (excluding those within settlements) and which coincide with the blade tip ZTV as follows:

- Rhyswg Fawr Farm (including Bwthyn Mamgu, Tri Carreg and Stabal To Carreg);

- Rhyswg Ganol Farm;
- Cefn Rhyswg Farm;
- Graigwen Houses and Graigwen Bungalow;
- Ty'n-y-ffynnon;
- Penrhiwgwair Farm;
- Roxburgh Bungalow;
- Glan Shon Farm; and
- Tyle Coch House.

6.13.3. These are illustrated in **Figures 6-17a-b** and a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) will be completed and included as **Appendix 6L** of the Final ES.

6.13.4. In summary, there would be significant visual effects on small parts of eight settlements within 10km including Abercarn, Cwmcarn and Pontywaun, Pantside, Newbridge/Trecelyn, Crosskeys, Llanhilleth and Brynithel, Pen-twyn and Trinant, and Blackwood/ Pontllanfraith.

Table 6.22 Visual effects on the views from settlements

Settlement	Assessment
1. **Abercarn (Llanfach, Persondy, Celynen, High Meadow, West End)**	Baseline Description: The settlement occupies the lower slopes and base of the Ebbw Valley, to the west and northwest of the Site. ZTV coverage (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**) indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development at the northern part of the settlement, most notably at High Meadow, Celynen, Persondy, Llanfach and West End at a minimum distance of 0.6km. Viewpoint 1 (**Figure 6-18**) is located within the High Meadow area of the settlement and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K.** Assessment: Proposed Development The majority of properties in the eastern part of High Meadow as well as Celynen, Persondy and Llanfach lie on the eastern flanking hills of the Ebbw Valley and therefore have a primary orientation to the southwest, northwest or southeast; with the Proposed Development located to the northeast. Visibility towards the Site would also be restricted by intervening screening by other residences or rising topography to the northeast. For north facing properties in Llanfach and on the western side of the Ebbw Valley, including the western part of High Meadow and the northern part of West End, a number of dwellings are orientated to the northeast towards the Proposed Development. Where visibility in these areas is not restricted by intervening built form, wireline analysis (via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates that up to two hubs and a blade would be visible beyond the wooded slopes of Craig Glan-sion and Twyn-y-ganol. The magnitude of change would range from High to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be intervisibility of the proposed turbines with scattered existing and consented wind farm development in views north from the eastern edge of Llanfach and Persondy. The nearest turbines include the existing Oakdale Business Park and the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn

Settlement	Assessment
	(Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be **Major** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would also be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Trecelyn would be visible adjacent to the proposed turbines at a similar distance (High to Zero magnitude). The turbines at Mynydd Maen would also be partially visible in views from Llanfach and Persondy (subject to screening from built form and vegetation) (Medium-Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be **Major** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would also be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development with Trecelyn). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
2. Cwmcarn and Pontywaun	Baseline Description: These settlements occupy part of the lower slopes and the base of the Ebbw Valley and Carn Valley, southwest of the Site. ZTV coverage (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), indicates that there would be limited theoretical visibility of one turbine across Pontywaun increasing to theoretical visibility of all three turbines across the southern and central areas of Cwmcarn as the settlement follows the Carn Valley. The closest area of ZTV coverage is within Cwmcarn at a minimum distance of 0.8km. Assessment: Proposed Development The majority of properties in Pontywaun lie on the eastern flanking hills of the Ebbw Valley and therefore have a primary orientation to the southwest, northwest or southeast; with the Proposed Development located to the northeast. Visibility towards the Site would also be restricted by intervening screening by other residences or rising topography to the northeast and partial screening from the wooded slopes of Medart. Theoretical visibility of a single turbine would be mostly available in limited properties with a northern orientation and in glimpsed views in northbound travel along residential roads particularly the B4591 as it crosses the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Wireline analysis indicates visibility of the tower, hub and blades (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). In Cwmcarn the orientation of properties varies and although views would be mostly screened by surrounding built form and orientation, there would be some views towards the Proposed Development between and above buildings from the south and west of the settlement. The closest properties are located to the north flank of the Carn valley and have a primary orientation to the south and southeast away from the proposed turbines. Where there are views towards the proposed turbines, there would be theoretical visibility of up to three hubs with one tower and two upper towers visible (High magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from High to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development in a glimpsed view along Ebbw valley to the north, from the southern area of Pontywaun although views would be heavily filtered by vegetation and screened by built form from the majority of the settlement (Very Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major** and **Significant** to

Settlement	Assessment
	None. The combined effect would also be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be no planning application or scoping request wind farms visible from Pontywaun or Cwmcarn.
3. Pantside	Baseline Description: Pantside occupies part of the lower and middle slopes of the Nant Gawni valley as it departs to the east of the Ebbw Valley, northwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), there would be theoretical visibility from the most elevated area to the northeast of the settlement. The closest area of ZTV coverage is indicated at a minimum distance of 3km. Viewpoint 3 is located within Pantside and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**. Assessment: Proposed Development The majority of properties to the northeast of the settlement have a primary orientation to the south or southeast along and across the Gawni valley, with some of the centrally located properties oriented to the northeast or southwest. The Proposed Development would be located to the southeast. Visibility towards the Site would also be restricted by intervening screening by other residences and intervening topography (Twyn-y-ganol) to the south-southeast. Views from the settlement are assessed in Viewpoint 3 (**Appendix 6K**) and illustrated in **Figure 6-20** where two blade tips would be theoretically visible (Very Low magnitude). Visibility would increase slightly with elevation towards the northeast edge of the settlement where wireline analysis (via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates up to two hubs and a blade would be theoretically visible in views from properties at the north-eastern edge of the settlement, although intervening woodland would potentially screen the hubs (Medium-Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium-Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Existing single turbines and wind farms at Llwyncelyn Farm and Fforch Ness (over 25km) would be partially visible to the southwest (Very Low magnitude). The consented Twyn Hywel Wind farm would be visible to the southwest at ~9.7km distance (Medium-Low magnitude) forming a cluster with the more distant Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would also be **Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development and Twyn Hywel). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Trecelyn Wind Farm would be visible as up to four hubs adjacent to the proposed turbines at a closer distance (High to Zero magnitude). Mynydd Maen would also be intervisible in views behind Trecelyn as hubs and blades (subject to screening from vegetation) (High-Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be

Settlement	Assessment
	Moderate and Not Significant (reduced because it would be visible behind Trecelyn and beside Mynydd Maen) to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen, and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
4. Newbridge/Trecelyn (Treowen, Old Treowen, Cwm Dows) and Pentwyn-mawr	Baseline Description: The settlement occupies the flanking eastern and western slopes as well as the base of the Ebbw Valley and continues along the lower northern slopes of the Dows Valley (Cwm Dows), to the northwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), the western parts of the settlement are illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, most notably on the facing valley sides at Treowen, and along the Dows Valley towards Pentwyn-mawr. The residential area to the south of Newbridge forms is the closest area of theoretical visibility, 2.8km northwest of the Proposed Development. Viewpoint 5 (**Figure 6-22**) lies within the Treowen area of the settlement and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**. Assessment: Proposed Development The majority of properties within the settlements are shown as falling within the ZTV with up to three turbines visible reducing to one turbine theoretically visible along the low-lying eastern edge of Newbridge and Trecelyn, and no visibility from the south of Pentwyn mawr. Along the Dows Valley the majority of properties are oriented south and southeast across the valley and towards the Ebbw Valley. Views towards the proposed turbines would be from southeast oriented properties and in eastbound travel along residential roads where the proposed turbines would be visible between and above buildings and in glimpsed and channelled views along the Ebbw Valley (subject to intervening vegetation). From the elevated facing slopes of the Ebbw Valley and at Treowen; less obstructed visibility of the Proposed Development would be achieved. Where visibility in these areas is not restricted by intervening built form, wireline analysis (via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates that up to three hubs and upper towers would be visible along the ridgeline at Cefn Rhyswg forming a new feature of southeast views. The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would be visible to the north from Newbridge and Treowen at ~5km distance (subject to screening from built form and vegetation) (Medium- Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would also be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development and to a lesser extent, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Trecelyn Wind Farm would be visible as up to four hubs adjacent to the proposed turbines (High to Zero magnitude). Mynydd Maen would also be intervisible in views behind Trecelyn as hubs and blades at ~3.5km distance (High-Medium magnitude). Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm would be visible

Settlement	Assessment
	to the northeast from Newbridge and Treowen at ~4km distance (Medium magnitude) and Abertillery Wind Farm would also be visible to the north at ~7.5km (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Trecelyn, Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhilleth and the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
5. Crosskeys	Baseline Description: Crosskeys occupies part of the lower slopes and the base of the Ebbw Valley as it enters the Sirhowy Valley, southwest of the Site and flanks the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), the majority of the settlement is shown as having partial theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, most notably across the Newtown areas of Crosskeys. The closest area of ZTV coverage is at a minimum distance of 2.6km. Assessment: Proposed Development Theoretical visibility of one hub and upper tower is illustrated from the Newtown area on the western edges of the settlement, with visibility reducing to a partial blade and blade tip further east in the settlement as visibility to the north along the Ebbw Valley becomes more limited. The orientation of the terraced properties in this area varies greatly. Consequently, the visibility of the turbine would frequently change along different streets as a result of this variance in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. The Proposed Development is anticipated to comprise a noticeable change to a small part of the channelled views through the Ebbw Valley, to the north, which is often screened by intervening built form or mature vegetation. The magnitude of change would range from Medium- Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development in a glimpsed view along Ebbw valley to the north although views would be heavily filtered by vegetation and screened by built form from the majority of the settlement (Very Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would also be **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be potential glimpsed views of a blade tip from within the planning application scheme at Trecelyn (Very Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would also be **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

Settlement	Assessment
6. Swffryd	Baseline Description: The linear settlement of Swffryd follows the northern flanking hills and base of the valley of the Cwm y Glyn, north of the Site and the A472. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), a large part of the settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, most notably across the more elevated parts of Swffryd, north of the B4471, at a distance of 4.2km at the closest point. Assessment: Proposed Development The elevated areas to the north and east and properties to the west of the settlement at Swffryd are shown as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. The majority of properties in these areas have a primary orientation to the west, southwest and northwest, although there are some properties in lower elevations to the south of the settlement with orientations to the south towards the proposed turbines. Wireline analysis (via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates visibility of blade tips from lower lying properties just north of the B4471 to visibility of three hubs from the most elevated areas. Visibility towards the Site would often be restricted by forestry lying on the opposing valley sides, such that visibility of the hubs from elevated areas and blades / tips from lower areas would be screened or heavily filtered in winter views. This would result in visibility of partial blades and tips above intervening woodland from elevated areas to the north, east and west of the settlement. Views would also be restricted by intervening screening by other residences. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. The level of effect would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The level of effect would be Not Significant due to the primary orientation of properties to the west, away from the proposed turbines and screening from intervening woodland. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Several existing and consented wind farms would be visible in wider views from the southwest to the northwest. The nearest include the operational wind turbines at Oakdale Business Park at ~3km distance (Medium magnitude), the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn to the northwest (Medium magnitude), Twyn Hywel to the southwest (Medium-Low magnitude), and Manmoel in more distant views to the northwest (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Oakdale Business Park, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Twyn Hywel and Manmoel and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Trecelyn would be visible to the fore of the proposed turbines to the southeast at ~1.4km distance (High to Zero magnitude). Other planning application wind farms would be visible to the north including Mynydd Llanhilleth at ~1.5km (High magnitude), and Abertillery (Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to Trecelyn and Mynydd Llanhilleth and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

Settlement	Assessment
7. Llanhilleth and Brynithel	Baseline Description: The settlement occupies the valley floor and northern flanking slopes of the Ebbw Valley, to the northwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**), visibility of the Proposed Development is demonstrated across the more elevated parts of Brynithel, and the elevated eastern and northern areas of Llanhilleth at a distance of 5.9km at the closest point. Assessment: Proposed Development The majority of properties in the eastern part of Llanhilleth lie on the eastern flanking hills of the Ebbw Valley and therefore have a primary orientation to the southwest; with the Proposed Development located to the southeast. Visibility towards the Site would also be restricted by intervening screening from other residences or mature vegetation to the south. The terraced properties within the northern part of Llanhilleth and Brynithel are located higher up the valley sides and have a primary orientation to the south and southeast, towards the Proposed Development. The terraced nature of these properties, on the sloping terrain, reduces the opportunity for screening by nearby built form resulting in up to three hubs, upper towers and blades. The magnitude of change would range from High-Medium to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from **Major** to **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park turbines would be visible as hubs to the southwest at ~2.5km (Medium magnitude). Other single turbines would be theoretically visible at greater distances from elevated areas (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The consented Twyn Hywel wind farm would also be partially visible from elevated areas of Brynithel (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be **Major** to **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** to **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development with Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Several planning application wind farms would be intervisible with the Proposed Development including Trecelyn (High-Medium magnitude), Mynydd Maen to the southeast (High magnitude) and Mynydd Llanhilleth to the northeast (High magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be **Major** to **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development, Trecelyn, Mynydd Maen, and Mynydd Llanhilleth). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
8. Aberbeeg	Baseline Description: This settlement occupies the valley floor and northern flanking slopes of the Ebbw Valley, to the northwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), visibility of the Proposed Development is demonstrated across the more elevated parts of the settlement to the south of Cwm Big at a distance of 7.6km at the closest point. Assessment: Proposed Development

Settlement	Assessment
	There is limited residential property overlap with the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**). Residential properties are oriented either to the southeast along the Ebbw Valley or west adjacent to Nant Big. Views within the settlement are restricted by screening from other residences, road infrastructure, or mature vegetation. The screened nature of these properties, particularly the dense vegetation, reduces the potential visibility of the Proposed Development which would be theoretically visible as a hub and blade tip to the southeast, but would be mostly screened. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be theoretical visibility of the operational Pen-y-Ganol Farm turbine to the west, although in reality this is likely to be screened by vegetation (Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Trecelyn would be seen in conjunction with the Proposed Development, although this is likely to be screened by vegetation (Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
9. Pen-twyn and Trinant	Baseline Description: The two communities of Trinant and Pent-wyn are located alongside one another, west of the Ebbw Valley and northwest of the Proposed Development. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**) both settlements are illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, at a distance of 5.6km at the closest point. Assessment: Proposed Development The density of both communities is relatively high while the predominant orientation of properties is on an east-to-west alignment. The Proposed Development is located to the southeast, with this boundary of both settlements reasonably well-wooded and the land to the eastern periphery also populated by various areas of mature vegetation. It is also noted that there playing fields/ open spaces on the eastern boundary of both settlements; north of Cedar Road in Trinant and north of Llanerch Lane in Pent-wyn. Both of these spaces are enclosed to a degree by mature woodland. Partial visibility of the Proposed Development could be attained from a portion of the roads within Trinant, which lie on a northwest-southeast orientation. The magnitude of change would be Medium for properties on the eastern margins of both settlements. However, the magnitude of change for the remainder of both communities would be Very Low. The level of effect on the eastern edge of the settlement would be **Major/ Moderate** and **Significant**. The level of effect across the remainder of both settlements would be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)

Settlement	Assessment
	Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park turbines would be visible as hubs to the west at ~1.1km (High-Medium magnitude). The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would also be visible to the north at ~2.1km (High to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development with Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate, and Oakdale Business Park). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> There would be several planning application wind farms intervisible with the Proposed Development including Trecelyn (Medium magnitude), and Mynydd Maen (High-Medium magnitude). Mynydd Llanhilleth would be visible to the east (High magnitude) and Abertillery would be partially visible to the northeast (Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (with the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and proposed Mynydd Llanhilleth contributing most to this level of effect). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
10. Caerphilly (Blackwood/ Pontllanfraith)	<u>Baseline Description:</u> The communities of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith form a large, settled area west of the Proposed Development, encompassing a number of smaller residential areas including The Bryn, Gelligroes, flanking the course of the Sirhowy River. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), the majority of both settled areas is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, at a minimum distance of 4.3km at the closest point. Viewpoint 11 (**Figure 6-28**) is located within Blackwood and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> Theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is demonstrated across a large proportion of both settlements. However, parts of the settlements to the east of the Sirhowy River are outside the ZTV and would have no theoretical visibility. From the western part of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith, the density of built form is expected to reduce opportunities for visibility of the proposed turbines. In addition to dwellings, the eastern edge of both communities is defined by a series of larger industrial and retail units including at Newbridge Road Industrial Estate, Penmaen Industrial Estate, Blackwood Gate Retail Park and Blackwood High Street. Intervisibility with the Proposed Development would also be reduced by the screening influence of mature vegetation following the course of the Sirhowy River. Unobstructed visibility of the proposed turbines would be achieved in certain areas on the open edges of settled areas. This includes from Blackwood Show Fields/ Cefn Forest, on Greenwood Road in Blackwood (Viewpoint 11, **Figure 6-28**), where visibility of three hubs and three blade tips is available. The screening influence of mature woodland enveloping Blackwood Golf Course is an important influence in views from this area (**Appendix 6K**). The magnitude of change would be Medium for properties on the margins of the settled area. However, the magnitude of change for the remainder of both communities would be Very Low. The level of effect on the settled edge would be **Major/ Moderate** and **Significant** with the level of effect across the remainder of both settlements being Moderate/ Minor and Not

Settlement	Assessment
	Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Several exiting and consented wind farms would be theoretically visible including Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park turbines to the northeast (High-Medium magnitude) and the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel wind farms, partially intervisible to the north (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be several planning application wind farms intervisible with the Proposed Development including Trecelyn (Medium to Zero magnitude), Mynydd Maen (Medium to Zero magnitude) and Mynydd Llanhilleth (Medium to Zero magnitude) which would be visible to the northeast, alongside Abertillery (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
11.Pontyminster	Baseline Description: Pontymister forms the southwest part of the larger settlement of Risca within the Ebbw Valley to the south of the Proposed Development. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), the western edges of the settlement are illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, at a minimum distance of 3.9km at the closest point. Assessment: Proposed Development Theoretical visibility of up to two hubs and blade tips is demonstrated across a small area at the western and southwestern edge of the settlement. Parts of this area comprise commercial and industrial units, however the area of Danygraig on the western flanks of the valley and Lower Ochrwyth are demonstrated to have potential visibility. In these small areas of the settlement, the properties are oriented northeast and enjoy elevated locations with views across the valley (subject to vegetation). The Proposed Development would be visible as a blade tip to the north and would be mostly experienced along the residential roads within the settlements. The magnitude of change would be Very Low. The level of effect on the western edges would be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The blade tips of the operational Solutia wind turbines would be theoretically visible to the east (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)

Settlement	Assessment
	No planning application or scoping request schemes would be visible and there would be no additional cumulative effects.
12. Bargoed and Gilfach	Baseline Description: The community of Bargoed/ Gillfach is located within the Rhymney River Valley northwest of the Proposed Development. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**) there is no ZTV coverage indicated in the low-lying southern area of Gilfach. The majority of the remaining settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of up to three turbines tips at a minimum distance of 8.4km. Assessment: Proposed Development Across the majority of the settlement the density of built form is high. Available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street and even within a discrete group of dwellings, such as a small cul-de-sac, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. Higher up the western side of the valley, a number of public open spaces are present including Bargoed Park, Bargoed Home Pitches and west of Hillside Park. The density of built form also reduces to the southwest although the primary orientation of dwellings is still very mixed. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by built form, the substantial areas of intervening settlement and the mature vegetation following the Rhymney River valley to the east. Some outward visibility to the east, in the direction of the Proposed Development, is expected from more elevated terraced properties and higher parts of Western Drive. The Proposed Development would comprise a distant and incremental man-made vertical feature of easterly views in the occasional instances where actual visibility is achieved. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The level of effect would be Not Significant due to the limited visibility within the settlement above and between properties, varied orientation of properties and distance in views from the elevated southwest. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be several existing and consented wind farms theoretically intervisible from the settlement subject to orientation and screening from the built environment. These include the operational Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park turbines to the east (Medium to Zero magnitude) and the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel wind farms, partially visible to the northeast (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude) and Twyn Hywel Wind Farm to the south (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). Other wind farms would be visible as smaller or single turbines or at a greater distance in glimpsed views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be Major and Significant to None (due to the Proposed Development with Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Twyn Hywel, Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate, and Oakdale Business Park). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)

Settlement	Assessment
	There would be several planning application wind farms intervisible with the Proposed Development including Trecelyn (Very Low to Zero magnitude), Mynydd Maen (Low to Zero magnitude) and Mynydd Llanhilleth to the east (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude) alongside Abertillery (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be Major and Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
13. Pen-pedair-heol, Gelligaer and Penybryn	Baseline Description: The settled areas of Gelligaer, Penybryn and Penpedairheol lie northeast of the ridgeline of terrain occupied by Hengoed/ Cefn Hengoed, west of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**) the majority of each settled area is illustrated as having theoretical visibility theoretical visibility of up to three turbines, at a minimum distance of 8.8km. Viewpoint 13 (**Figure 6-30**) is located on the northern edge of Gelligaer and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K.** Assessment: Proposed Development The density of built form is high in these areas. Available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street and even within a discrete group of dwellings, such as a small cul-de-sac, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, visibility of the Proposed Development is expected to be limited to the northern and eastern margins of each settled area. The sloping terrain profile, intervening raised settlement at Hengoed/ Cefn Hengoed and the screening provided by broader areas of built form and mature vegetation are all factors in reducing opportunities for available views of the proposed turbines. As assessed in **Appendix 6K**, available views from Gelligaer are markedly reduced for the majority of properties by intervening vegetation, comprising mature mixed field boundary vegetation and mixed woodland surrounding Gelligaer Cemetery and bordering Pengam Road. Easterly views from Penybryn and Penpedairheol would be similarly filtered by mature vegetation bordering their eastern margins with the large-scale industrial units of the Penalta Industrial Estate forming an additional screening influence for properties in Penybryn. The Proposed Development would comprise a distant and incremental man-made feature of easterly views across an extensively settled and developed landscape in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be several existing and consented wind farms theoretically intervisible with the proposed turbines from the settlements subject to orientation and screening from the built environment. These include Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park turbines to the east (from Penybryn and Penpedairheol) (Low to Zero magnitude), the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel wind farms, partially visible to the northeast (Low to Zero magnitude) and Twyn Hywel Wind Farm to the south (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). Other wind farms would be visible as smaller or single turbines or at a greater distance in glimpsed views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (with the Twyn

Settlement	Assessment
	Hywel turbines contributing most to this level of effect). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be several planning application schemes visible including Trecelyn (Low to Zero magnitude), Mynydd Maen (Low to Zero magnitude) and Mynydd Llanhilleth to the east alongside Abertillery (both Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
14. Hengoed	Baseline Description: The area of Hengoed occupies an elevated parcel of land west of the Rhymney River between Gelligaer, to the north, and Ystrad Mynach, to south; west of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**) the majority of the settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, at a minimum distance of 7.5km. Assessment: Proposed Development The density of the settlement is fairly high in this area where available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street and even within a discrete group of dwellings, such as a small cul-de-sac, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the substantial areas of intervening settlement, including the larger built form of the Hawtin Industrial Estate, and the mature woodland following the course of the Rhymney River to the east. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of easterly views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The operational turbines at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park would be partially visible to the northeast (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel wind farms would also be partially visible to the northeast (Low to Zero magnitude), whilst Twyn Hywel Wind Farm would be visible to the south (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). Other wind farms would be visible as smaller or single turbines or at a greater distance in glimpsed views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Trecelyn, Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abertillery would all be visible along the skyline to the northeast, subject to partial screening from intervening vegetation (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The

Settlement	Assessment
	combined effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None (due to the consented Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
15.Tredomen	Baseline Description: The area of Tredomen occupies an elevated parcel of land west of the Rhymney River and forms the western edge of the wider settlement of Ystrad Mynach; west of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**) the majority of the settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, at a minimum distance of 8.9km. Assessment: Proposed Development The density of the settlement is relatively high across this area where available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street and even within a discrete group of dwellings, such as a small cul-de-sac, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the substantial areas of intervening settlement, and the mature woodland following the rail line to the east. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of easterly views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. Intervening landform and woodland would screen the proposed turbines such that only hubs and/or blades would be visible on the skyline. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The hubs of the operational turbines at Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth would be visible on the same section of skyline as the Proposed Development to the southeast (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes of Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen wind farms would form a cluster of turbines on the skyline adjacent to the Proposed Development and would be slightly less screened by land from and vegetation (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would become Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
16. Cwmbran	Baseline Description: Cwmbran occupies the lower slopes either side of the Lwyd Valley to the east of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), areas to the southeast of the settlement at Llantarnam and east of River Lwyd at Llanyrafon and Croesyceiliog are illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, at a minimum distance of 5.5km with potential visibility increasing from one turbine to three turbines as the landform rises with increased distance to the southeast. Assessment: Proposed Development

Settlement	Assessment
	The density of the settlement is relatively high across these suburban areas where available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street and even within a discrete group of dwellings, such as a small cul-de-sac, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the substantial areas of intervening settlement, and the mature woodland following the Afon Lwyd. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of westerly views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. Intervening landform and woodland would screen the proposed turbines such that only blade tips would be theoretically visible on the skyline from the majority of the settlement, increasing to a partial hub and two blade tips from Llantarnam. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no operational or consented wind turbines visible from the settlement. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Mynydd Maen Wind Farm planning application scheme would be partially visible on the same skyline as the proposed turbines to the northwest (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Mynydd Maen and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
17. Ponthir	Baseline Description: The settlement of Ponthir occupies the lower slopes of the Lwyd Valley to the southeast of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**) the majority of the settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development at a minimum distance of 8.5km. Assessment: Proposed Development Although Ponthir is a small settlement, the density of property is relatively high and available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the areas of intervening settlement, and the mature woodland following the Afon Lwyd. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of north-westerly views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. Intervening landform and woodland would screen the proposed turbines such that only blade tips would be theoretically visible on the skyline from the majority of the settlement. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)

Settlement	Assessment
	There would be no operational or consented wind turbines visible from the settlement. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Mynydd Maen Wind Farm planning application scheme would be partially visible on the same skyline as the Proposed Development to the northwest (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Mynydd Maen and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
18. Caerleon	Baseline Description: The settlement of Caerleon occupies an elevated knoll at the confluence of the River Usk and River Lwyd to the southeast of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), the elevated northwestern edge of the settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development at a minimum distance of 8.9km. Assessment: Proposed Development The majority of properties on the northwestern edge of the settlement are oriented to the southeast away from the proposed turbines. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the rising landform and mature woodland (Lodge Wood) to the immediate north of the settlement. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of north-westerly views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. Where visible in heavily filtered winter views, wireline analysis (via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates that the proposed turbines would be seen as two hubs and a blade. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The blade tips of the consented Twyn Hywel schemes would be theoretically intervisible to the west in heavily filtered views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Several planning application schemes would theoretically be visible to the northwest including Mynydd Maen (Low to Zero magnitude), Mynydd Llanhilleth (Very Low to Zero magnitude) and Abertillery (Low to Zero magnitude) (subject to screening). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
19. Malpas	Baseline Description: Malpas occupies an elevated location between the River Usk valley and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal to the southeast of the Site. With

Settlement	Assessment
	reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), the majority of the settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development at a minimum distance of 6.5km. Assessment: Proposed Development The settlement falls gently to the west, south and southeast from a high point to the northwest of the settlement. As a result, the greatest area of potential visibility from the main settlement is to the northwest and west, particularly from open areas and west facing slopes to the west of the A4051 such as Whittle Drive and Oliphant Cir. The density of the settlement is relatively high across the settlement and available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street and even within a discrete group of dwellings, such as a small cul-de-sac, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the substantial areas of intervening settlement, and areas of mature woodland. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of northwest views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. Wireline analysis (via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates that where visible, intervening landform would screen the proposed turbines such that a hub, a blade and a blade tip would be theoretically visible on the skyline. The magnitude of change would be Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The effect would be Not Significant due to limited visibility of the turbines, distance and screening across the majority of the settlement. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no operational or consented wind turbines visible from the settlement. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would be partially visible on the same skyline as the proposed turbines to the northwest (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Mynydd Maen and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
20.Bettws	Baseline Description: Bettws is situated on the sloping valley sides flanking to the north and south of Malpas Brook to the southeast of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**) the majority of the settlement is illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development at a minimum distance of 5.8km. Areas at the northern edge of the settlement are outside the ZTV coverage with theoretical visibility increasing on the north facing valley slopes to the south of the settlement. Viewpoint 8 (**Figure 6-25**) is located on the southern edge of Bettws and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K.** Assessment: Proposed Development From areas of the settlement to the north of Malpas Brook, theoretical visibility is indicated as up to two turbines. The majority of properties are oriented to the south, southeast and southwest from this area and the density of built form is expected to reduce opportunities for visibility of the proposed turbines. To the south of Malpas Brook, the majority of properties

Settlement	Assessment
	are oriented to the north, northeast and northwest although surrounding settlement buildings would screen some views towards the proposed turbines. Unobstructed visibility of the proposed turbines would be achieved in certain open areas to the south of the settlement. This includes from Minnow Way, as it passes west of Crouch Close (Viewpoint 8, **Figure 6-25**), where visibility of a partial hub, a blade and a blade tip is available (**Appendix 6K**). The magnitude of change would be Low for properties with open views from the south of the settlement. However, the magnitude of change for the remainder of the community would be Very Low to Zero. The level of effect within the southern parts of the settlement would be Moderate and Not Significant with the level of effect across the remainder of the settlements being Moderate/ Minor to No View and Not Significant. The effect would be Not Significant due to limited visibility of the turbines, distance and screening across the majority of the settlement. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The hubs of the operational Solutia turbines would be visible in views to the southeast (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The Mynydd Maen planning application scheme would be partially visible on the same skyline as the proposed turbines to the northwest (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Mynydd Maen and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
21.Newport (St Julians and Barnardtown)	Baseline Description: St Julians and Barnardtown occupy the north and northwestern areas of the larger settlement of Newport, southeast of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), there would be theoretical visibility of three turbines across these settlement areas continuing along the northwest fringes of Newport at Ridgeway at a minimum distance of 8.4km. Assessment: Proposed Development The density of built form is relatively high across these areas of settlement and available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change as residential streets curve and intersect, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the substantial areas of intervening settlement, interspersed with trees along rail corridors and areas of mature woodland. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of northwest views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. Where visible from elevated areas (such as Heather Road and Merlin Crescent in St Julian's), wirelines (reviewed via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicate that the proposed turbines would be visible as two hubs and a blade tip on a distant ridgeline above the intervening townscape. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The effect would be Not Significant due to limited visibility of the turbines (hubs and a blade tip), distance and screening across the majority

Settlement	Assessment
	of the settlement. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The blades and partial hubs of the consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm would be visible to the west (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Abertillery would be partially visible on the same skyline as the proposed turbines to the northwest (both Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Mynydd Maen and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
22.Rogerstone	Baseline Description: The settlement is located along the broad valley bottom of the lower reaches of the Ebbw Valley, southeast of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), theoretical visibility of two turbines is indicted across most of the settlement, increasing to three turbines to the southwest tip of the settlement at a minimum distance of 6.3km. Assessment: Proposed Development Across the majority of the settlement, the density of built form is high. Available views of the Proposed Development would frequently change along a single street and even within a discrete group of dwellings, such as a small cul-de-sac, as a result of variances in orientation and the degree of screening provided by other built form. On the whole, available views to the proposed turbines are expected to be limited by the substantial areas of intervening settlement, interspersed with urban trees and areas of mature woodland along Ebbw River and settlement edges. The Proposed Development would comprise an incremental man-made feature of northwest views in the limited instances where actual visibility is achieved. Where visible, wirelines (reviewed via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicate that the proposed turbines would be seen as two or three blade tips which would be barely discernible in the view. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no operational or consented wind turbines visible from the settlement. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would be partially visible on the same skyline as the proposed turbines to the north (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None.

Settlement	Assessment
	The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
23.Rudry / Garth Place	Baseline Description: The settlement is located on the northeast facing slopes of Mynydd Rudry to the southwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2** to **6-6**), theoretical visibility of between one and two turbines is indicted across the settlement at a minimum distance of 8.2km. Assessment: Proposed Development Garth Place is a small settlement which follows the contours of the hill such that most of the properties are oriented to the northeast. Most of the longer-range views occur to the northern edge of the settlement, with properties away from the northern edge of the settlement mostly screened by surrounding buildings. Where visible, wireline analysis (undertaken using the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates that the proposed turbines would be seen as up to two blade tips which would be barely discernible in the view. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero. The level of effect from the settlement would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm would be visible to the northeast (Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be no planning application or scoping request wind farms visible from this settlement and therefore no change to the cumulative assessment.

Visual effects on views from long-distance recreational routes

6.13.5. The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by people (walkers / cyclists / horse riders / and others) on recreational routes overlapped by the blade tip ZTV.

6.13.6. 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.

6.13.7. In summary, there would significant visual effects from parts of 10 long-distance recreational routes as follows: NCN Route 465, Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge, Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk, Celtic Way, Raven Walk, Cistercian Way, Cambrian Way, Ebbw Valley Walk and the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk. Many of these routes overlap. Significant effects would typically occur along short sections of the routes.

Table 6.23 Visual effects on the views from recreational routes

Recreational Route	Assessment
National Routes (within the 27km LVIA Study Area)	
Wales Coast Path	Baseline Description: The Wales Coast Path is a continuous 1,400km long coastal footpath stretching along the entire length of the coastline of Wales. Within the LVIA Study Area it follows the coastline between Penarth in the west and Caldicot in the east. The route is illustrated on Figures **6-14a-b** and lies approximately 10.9km southeast of the Proposed Development at its closest point at Newport. Assessment: Proposed Development The ZTV in Figure **6-14a** indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would be available from the majority of the Wales Coast Path as it crosses the LVIA Study Area. In reality, views from the section of route to the south of Penarth and Cardiff would often be screened by foreground built form with no views of the Proposed Development available to walkers. As the route continues to the east of Cardiff and south of Newton, Peterstone Wentlooge and St Brides Wentlooge, views northwards would become more open and similar to Viewpoint 20 (**Figure 6-37**). From this section of route, the hubs, upper portions of the towers and upper rotator sweep of the three turbines would be visible as new structures on the skyline of long-range northerly views (Low-Very Low magnitude). Continuing eastwards, the route would enter Newport where views towards the Proposed Development would again be screened by intervening built form. Finally, as the route passes along the edge of the Caldicot Levels to the east of Newport, northerly views would occasionally be foreshortened by middle-distance elements such as the Severn Power Station and field boundary trees or foreground vegetation (Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Low-Very Low to Zero whilst the resulting level of effect would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Visibility towards many of the operational and consented schemes to the north would be limited by viewing distance. However, the operational turbines at Solutia, together with those at Tesco Newport would be clearly visible to users as they traverse the section of Wales Coast Path to the east of Newport (High-Medium to Zero). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The combined effect would be **Major** to **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Solutia and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The Trecelyn, Mynydd Maen and Abertillery planning application schemes would be visible in views to the northwest (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant whilst the combined effect would continue to be **Major** to **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Solutia and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Sustrans National Cycle Routes (within 10km of the Proposed Development)	

Recreational Route	Assessment
NCN Route 4	Baseline Description: NCN Route 4 is a long-distance route between London and Fishguard. Within 10km of the Proposed Development, the route passes between Newport and Caerphilly. The route is illustrated on Figure **6-14a-b** and lies approximately 5.4km south of the Proposed Development at the closest point at Machen. Assessment: Proposed Development Within 10km of the Proposed Development, ZTV coverage is indicated along the route as it passes between Newport (J28 of the M4) and southeast of Draethen (~7km of the route), with theoretical visibility varying between one and three turbines. Actual visibility would be achievable from an ~0.2km elevated section of the route as it passes north of Croes-Carn-Einion (for eastbound users), and for ~1km as the route passes north of Michaelstone Bridge (northbound users). The proposed turbines would be mostly visible as up to three blade tips from these sections of the route although a hub may be fleetingly visible near the junction with Con-y-North Lane in heavily filtered views. For cyclists travelling along the remainder of the route, visibility would be restricted, and the Proposed Development would be screened by either the urban environment or extensive mature roadside vegetation as well as intervening field boundary hedgerows and mature woodlands. The magnitude of change would at most be Very Low and more commonly Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant (in limited glimpses) to None (the majority of the route). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The existing Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth turbines would be partially intervisible to the northwest (Very Low magnitude). The consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm would also be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development in views northwest from Croes-Carn-Einion (Medium-Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen (Low magnitude) and Trecelyn (Very Low magnitude) would theoretically be intervisible with the Proposed Development in views northwest from Croes-Carn-Einion. Views would be intermittently screened by vegetation. The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None whilst the combined effect would continue to be **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
NCN Route 47	Baseline Description: NCN Route 47 is a 195km cycle route between Newport and Fishguard and forms part of the Celtic Trail West. Within 10km of the Proposed Development, the route passes between Newport in the southeast and west of Tredomen. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b** and passes through the Sirhowy Valley to the southwest of the Proposed Development at a minimum separation distance of approximately 1.9km. Assessment: Proposed Development Several sections of the route coincide with the ZTV as indicated by **Figure 6-14a** including at the western edge of Newport between Usk Way and

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Rogerstone (5.7-10km southeast of the Proposed Development), at Crosskeys (4.3km south of the Proposed Development) and between Gelligroes and Hengoed (5.7-8.4km west of the Proposed Development). Between Usk Way and Rogerstone, visibility of the Proposed Development would theoretically be available for westbound cyclists as the route follows the River Usk north, and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal west and northwest to Lower Mount Pleasant. In reality, visibility of the Proposed Development from this section of NCN47 would be restricted and mostly screened by the built environment at Newport and mature woodland flanking the course of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Some intermittent visibility of the Proposed Development would be experienced by cyclists through gaps in the vegetation cover as the route passes adjacent to the M4 (intermittent Very Low magnitude for ~1.5km section of the route). Theoretical visibility at Crosskeys is shown for ~0.5km of NCN47 as it passes between Waunfawr Park and onto Islwyn Road, where the Proposed Development would lie to the north. The Proposed Development is anticipated to comprise a noticeable but intermittent addition to channelled and fleeting views to the Ebbw Valley, perpendicular to the route, often screened by intervening built form or mature vegetation (Low magnitude). Between Tredomen, Hengoed and Gelligroes, theoretical visibility is shown for eastbound cyclists as the route crosses the Hengoed/ Maesycwmmer Viaduct, in the Rhymney Valley, and along the route of the A472 to Gelligroes. From this section of the route, the Proposed Development would be screened by mature woodland flanking the course of the Rhymney River, intervening mature roadside vegetation and extensive areas of suburban built form. The Proposed Development would theoretically be visible in the direction of travel along the A472 but would be barely discernible as blade tips beyond intervening woodland. The magnitude of change for cyclists travelling along NCN47would vary from Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The Moderate level of effect is judged be Not Significant due to the glimpsed and transitory nature of views that would often be oblique to the direction of travel. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)</u> There would be no existing or consented wind farms intervisible with the proposed turbines in the direction of travel. However, the consented Twyn Hywel would be visible in the opposite direction of travel (westbound) along the A472 at Gelligroes in channelled or filtered views (Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would remain Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Twyn Hywel and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> Although Mynydd Maen, Trecelyn and Mynydd Llanhilleth would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development in the same (eastbound) direction of travel, views would be mostly screened by the urban built environment and/or vegetation with potential for glimpsed views (Very Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

Recreational Route	Assessment
NCN Route 49	Baseline Description: NCN Route 49 is a 32.5km cycle route which follows the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal towpath along the River Usk from the boundary with the City of Newport to Pontymoile Canal Basin. Within 10km of the Proposed Development, the route passes between Newport in the south and north of Pontypool, where it skirts the eastern boundary of the BBNP. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b** and passes through Cwmbran to the east of the Proposed Development at a minimum separation distance of ~5km. Assessment: Proposed Development Within 10km of the Proposed Development, ZTV coverage is indicated along the route as it passes between Newport (J26 of the M4) and the southern edge of Cwmbran (~4.3km of the route), with theoretical visibility varying between one and three turbines. Actual visibility of the Proposed Development would be restricted by trees and vegetation which line the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal and associated towpath although views become slightly more open to northbound cyclists as they approach Hollybush Way on the southern edge of Cwmbran from where a single turbine blade may be discernible above the ridgeline in oblique views to the northwest. The magnitude of change would at most be Very Low and more commonly Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant (in limited glimpses) to None (the majority of the route). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Operational and consented wind turbine schemes would not be visible from the section of NCN Route 49 as it passes within 10km of the Proposed Development and there would be no cumulative visual effects. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The cumulative ZTV in **Figure 6-16a** indicates that the planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would theoretically be inter and sequentially visible with the Proposed Development although actual visibility would be restricted from along the majority of the cycle route by vegetation along the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal and built form within Cwmbran and Pontypool (worst case Low magnitude and more commonly Zero). Whilst theoretical visibility of the planning application schemes at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abertillery is indicated in the cumulative ZTV in **Figure 6-16b**, in reality outward views would be restricted by built form within Pontypool. The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
NCN Route 88	Baseline Description: NCN Route 88 links Newport, Cardiff, Bridgend and Margam Country Park, passing ~8.5km to the east of the Site at its closest point. The route is illustrated on **Figure 6-14a-b.** Assessment: Proposed Development Theoretical visibility is shown along a section of NCN Route 88 as it follows Lyne Road, Shaftesbury Street and a short section of Albany Street to the east of the A4042/B4591 interchange within Newport and a short section of route to the east of A4042 / Pillmawr Road close to the River Usk. The route is enclosed on both sides by mature vegetation or built form, supressing outward visibility towards the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change would be Zero and the resulting level of effect would be None.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no cumulative effects. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be no cumulative effects.
NCN Route 423	Baseline Description: NCN Route 423 links Cwmbran in the west with Ross in the east via the route of the former Regional Route 30 and the Peregrine Path. The route lies ~6km northeast of the Proposed Development at the closest point, starting at Pontrhydyrun in Cwmbran. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b**. Assessment: Proposed Development Within 10km of the Proposed Development, theoretical visibility is shown intermittently southwest of Coed-Y-Paen (for ~1km), northeast of Croeswen (for ~0.2km) and between Croeswen and the A4042 (for ~1.6km). Wirelines indicate that the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible as up to two blade tips in the direction of travel for westbound cyclists, which would be barely perceptible in the view. Visibility of the Proposed Development would be intermittent in these locations due to mature roadside vegetation as well as intervening field boundary hedgerows and mature woodlands. The magnitude of change would at most be Very Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant (in limited glimpses) to None (the majority of the route). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The existing Solutia turbines would be partially visible to the south (Very Low magnitude). The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development as blade tips in glimpsed views from elevated locations south of Llandegfedd Reservoir (Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhilleth, and Abertillery (all Medium-Low magnitude) would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development along the same ridgeline. Views would be intermittently screened by vegetation. The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhilleth, and Abertillery and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
NCN Route 465	Baseline Description: NCN Route 465 forms two routes within 10km of the Proposed Development. The southern route follows the Ebbw Valley along a section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal at Crosskeys between Darran road and Pontywaun at a distance of 1.9km at its closest point. The northern route follows the Ebbw Fach Valley from Llanhilleth, in the south, to Bryn Mawr, in the north following a predominantly traffic free route, at a minimum separation distance of ~3.6km to the northwest of the Proposed Development. The route(s) are illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b.** Assessment: Proposed Development

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Views from the southern section of the route are indicated for ~ 0.7km to the north of the route at Pontywaun and would be experienced by northbound cyclists. Although views would be partially screened by built form and vegetation along the route, wirelines indicate that there would be some (filtered) channelled views towards the Proposed Development which would be visible as up to two turbines including hubs and upper towers, predominantly during the winter months. There would be no views of the Proposed Development available to southbound cyclists using the section of NCN 465 to the north of the proposed turbines, with **Figure 6-14b** showing this section as lying outside of the ZTV. The magnitude of change would vary from Medium-Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development in a glimpsed view along Ebbw valley to the north, although views would be heavily filtered by vegetation and screened by built form from the majority of the settlement (Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be potential glimpsed views of a blade tip from the planning application scheme at Trecelyn (Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be remain **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
NCN Route 466	Baseline Description: NCN Route 466 links Pontypool in the east with Ebbw Vale in the north via the valley of the Cwm y Glyn and the Ebbw Fach Valley, passing ~3.6km to the north of the Site at its closest point. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b.** Assessment: Proposed Development Theoretical visibility of one blade tip is shown for a ~0.3km section of NCN 466 west of Swffryd. Although there would be open views southeast towards the proposed turbines from this location, intervening woodland across the middle-distance landform would screen views of the theoretically visible blade tip from this location. The magnitude of change would be Zero. The resulting level of effect would be None. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no cumulative effects. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be no cumulative effects.
NCN Route 467	Baseline Description: NCN Route 467 follows the Sirhowy Valley from Blackwood in the south, to New Tredegar in the north. From Blackwood, this off-road route runs parallel with the A4048 and is flanked by mature woodland for the majority of the route through the valley. The starting point of the route in Blackwood forms the

Recreational Route	Assessment
	closest point to the Proposed Development, ~6.1km to the northwest of the proposed turbines. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b**. Assessment: Proposed Development Theoretical visibility is shown for a ~1.6km section between The Rock and Argoed, as well as for a ~0.3km section of the route through the Sirhowy Valley south of Hollybush. For cyclists travelling in a broadly south-easterly direction towards Blackwood, views towards the Proposed Development would predominantly be subject to screening by mature woodland lining the route through the Sirhowy Valley. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low, where fleeting, filtered winter views of the Proposed Development are available, to Zero, for large parts of the route's length where the Proposed Development would not be visible. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The Pen-y-Fan and Oakdale turbines would be intervisible to the east in filtered views (Medium-Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Pen-y-Fan and Oakdale and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn (both Very Low magnitude) would theoretically be intervisible with the Proposed Development in filtered views. The additional level of effect from the proposed development would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to Pen-y-Fan and Oakdale and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
NCN Route 469	Baseline Description: NCN Route 469 is a 7.4km route which commences at Bristol Terrace in Bargoed and follows an abandoned rail track before reaching the community of Fochriw. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b** and lies approximately 9.5km to the northwest of the Proposed Development. Assessment: Proposed Development Theoretical visibility within 10km of the Proposed Development coincides with the section of cycle route which extends along Bristol Terrace in Bargoed, from which up to three blade tips would potentially be visible. The hub height ZTV in **Figure 6-5** indicates that no hubs would be visible from this section of the route. The views of cyclists travelling in a broadly south-easterly direction would be subject to screening by trees, hedgerows and built form which extends along the eastern side of Bristol Terrace with further screening of blade tips provided by skyline woodland. The magnitude of change would be Zero and the resulting level of effect would be None. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no cumulative effects. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)

Recreational Route	Assessment
	There would be no cumulative effects.

Regional Routes (within 10km of the Proposed Development)

Cambrian Way

Baseline Description:
The Cambrian Way comprises an elevated coast to coast walking route through Wales and crosses the LVIA Study Area within 1.5km of the Site on a broadly north-south alignment. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b**. Viewpoints 2 (**Figure 6-19**), 6 (**Figure 6-23**), and 15 (**Figure 6-32**) are located along the route of the Cambrian Way and are assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**.

Assessment: Proposed Development
ZTV coverage along the route of the Cambrian Way is illustrated in **Figures 6-14a-b** and extends across four main areas as follows (from south to north):

- Firstly, an area of theoretical visibility to the southeast of Caerphilly where the route coincides with the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk between Thornhill and Rudry, at distances of ~8.9 to 12km southwest of the proposed turbines. This section of the route passes through woodland and forestry which would screen views towards the Proposed Development.
- Continuing in a north-easterly direction, the route descends towards the base of the Rhymney Valley at Machen and continues northeast towards Mynydd Machen. There is no ZTV coverage indicated until the route nears the summit of Mynydd Machen and descends along the southern hill slopes of the Sirhowy Valley, south of the Newtown area of Crosskeys, ~4.1-4.6km southwest of the Proposed Development. The view from the route at Mynydd Machen is illustrated in Viewpoint 6 (**Figure 6-23**) and assessed in **Appendix 6K** (Medium magnitude). The Proposed Development would form a new vertical, man-made feature of channelled north-easterly views through the Ebbw Valley, with the potential for a degree of screening to be offered by the well-wooded intervening valley sides.
- The route then traces the path of the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge, crossing the Sirhowy Valley (outside ZTV coverage) to proceed northward towards the Iron Age Fort at Twmbarlwm. Here, a third area of theoretical visibility is indicated between the hill summit and along Mynydd Henllys to Pwll Tra. The view from the summit at Twmbarlwm is illustrated at Viewpoint 2 (**Figure 6-19**) and assessed in **Appendix 6K** (High magnitude). From Twmbarlwm, the Cambrian Way follows the ridgeline of Mynydd Henllys in a north-easterly direction, skirting the western edge of Cwmbran and bordering the coniferous forestry southeast of Craig y Glyn where the route coincides with the Cistercian Way and Torfaen Trail. The route passes within 1.5km of the turbines along this section however, theoretical visibility towards the proposed turbines would become increasingly reduced by coniferous forestry at Pwll Tra.
- The final area of ZTV coverage occurs just beyond 10km of the Proposed Development and is indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b** across the upland area east of the Avon Afon Llwyd valley and northeast of the Proposed Development. The route leaves the northern edge of Pontypool from Penygarn, following the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge, and crosses Little Mountain on the boundary of the BBNP to the open ridgeline of upland plateau at Mynydd Garn Wen and Mynydd Garnclochdy. The primary orientation of elevated views in this location is to the east, over the

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Usk Valley towards the BBNP. Views of the proposed turbines are illustrated at Viewpoint 15, (**Figure 6-32**) and assessed in **Appendix 6K** (Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from High, across more elevated parts of the route where unobstructed visibility is available, particularly in close proximity to the proposed turbines near Twmbarlwm, to Zero due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) A detailed cumulative assessment is reported in **Appendix 6K** for Viewpoints **2, 6**, and **15**. In summary, the maximum cumulative magnitude would be Medium (at Viewpoint 6), resulting in a **Major/Moderate** level of effect which would be **Significant** due to the consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) A detailed cumulative assessment is reported in **Appendix 6K** for Viewpoints 2, 6, and 15. In summary, sections of the Cambrian Way would pass through or in close proximity to the planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhilleth, and Trecelyn resulting in a High to Zero magnitude of change and a **Major** and **Significant** level of effect as the route passes to the north of the Proposed Development.
Celtic Way	Baseline Description: The Celtic Way visits prehistoric sites through South Wales and the South West peninsula and is 1,125km in length route that follows public rights of way and minor roads across the hills surrounding the Rhymney Valley. Assessment: Proposed Development Within 10km of the Proposed Development, four areas of ZTV coverage are indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b** along the Celtic Way as follows: ● Travelling from west to east, the first area of theoretical visibility is located to the south and southeast of Caerphilly. This section of the route overlaps with the Cistercian Way as it travels through forestry and woodland along the Rhymney Valley to Draethen and is assessed under this receptor (Very Low to Zero magnitude). ● From Draethen the route travels northeast towards the Sirhowy Valley ridgeline and no ZTV coverage is indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b** until the Celtic Way meets Upper Ochrwyth. Along this section of the route, a second area of ZTV coverage is indicated as the route traverses the north facing slopes between Upper Ochrwyth and Danygraig. Views from this section of the route would be intermittently screened by mature field boundary trees. From open areas, there would be theoretical visibility of two hubs and a blade at ~5.4km distance, reducing to a blade tip as the route reaches Danygraig (Medium to Zero magnitude). ● The third area of ZTV coverage is indicated as the route circles around the base of the Iron Age Fort at Twmbarlwm to the west, north and east of the fort. Although this section of the route partially travels through forestry and scrub, there would be some open views from elevated areas where the proposed turbines would be visible at a minimum distance of 1.6km to the north and northwest and would form a prominent new feature on the skyline for up to 350m of the route (High magnitude).

Recreational Route	Assessment
	● The final section of ZTV coverage is indicated in fragmented areas to the west of Llantarnam and continues as sustained coverage between Llantarnam and the northern edge of Caerleon. There would be theoretical visibility of between one and three blade tips across the majority of this section of the route which would be intermittently screened by intervening vegetation and/or buildings until the route nears Caerleon (and overlaps with the Cistercian Way) where there would be more elevated views of two hubs and a blade at ~9km distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from High near Twmbarlwm, to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None with significant effects for short sections at Upper Ochrwyth and near Twmbarlwm. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)</u> Although the route does not pass in close proximity to any existing and consented wind farms, several schemes would theoretically be visible from along the route, subject to screening from intervening built form or vegetation. The consented schemes at Twyn Hywel would be theoretically visible to the north from parts of the route southwest of Caerphilly (Low magnitude) whilst the consented turbines at Manmoel and single operational turbines would be theoretically visible from along the Sirhowy Valley ridge (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> Several planning application schemes would theoretically be visible from along the route due to their close relative proximity to the proposed turbines. The application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn would be most visible from Twmbarlwm although partially screened by intervening forest (Medium magnitude) whilst Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abertillery would be visible at greater distances as the route approaches Caerleon (both Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Cistercian Way	<u>Baseline Description:</u> The Cistercian Way (Wales) forms a circular pilgrimage trail throughout Wales and crosses within 10km of the Proposed Development between Rudry (~9.4km) to the southwest and Caerleon, ~10.0km southeast of the Site. The route passes within ~1.6km of the proposed turbines at its closest point. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage along the route of the Cistercian Way within 10km of the proposed turbines is indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b** and extend across three main sections as follows: ● Firstly, an area of theoretical visibility coincides with the Cistercian Way to the southeast of Caerphilly as the route follows the Cambrian Way / Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk between Thornhill and Rudry, ~8.9-12km southwest of the proposed turbines. This section of the route passes through woodland and forestry which would restrict views towards the Proposed Development. Further limited patches of visibility are indicated near Crynant Farm and Ruperra Castle where views would also be

Recreational Route	Assessment
	screened or heavily filtered by woodland and forestry (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The route then heads north to Machen and west towards the Sirhowy valley ridgeline. There is no ZTV coverage along this section of the route. ● The second main area of theoretical visibility is shown along a 2.5km section of the Sirhowy Valley ridgeline with theoretical visibility of three turbines reducing to one turbine as the route descends towards Lower Ochrwyth and the southern edge of Ponytmister. There would be open views from the top of the ridgeline where one hub and two blades would be visible and filtered views of up to two hubs between gaps in roadside vegetation at Upper Ochrwyth reducing to a blade tip at Lower Ochrwyth (Medium to Zero magnitude). ● As the route climbs north of Risca and heads along Mynydd Henllys towards Cwmbran, there is no ZTV coverage indicated with the exception of a short section (0.7km) at Mynydd Henllys where up to two hubs would be theoretically visible in views northwest at ~1.7km distance. The hubs would be screened by intervening forest such that the blades would be visible as new, rotating elements in the view (Medium magnitude). It is noted that the main views from this section of the promoted route are in the opposite direction to the southeast and east. ● The final area of theoretical visibility, as indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b,** is from an ~5km section of the route between Cwmbran and Caerleon, at a distance of ~5.4-9.4km from the nearest turbine. The Proposed Development would theoretically be visible as blade tips for much of this section, with a maximum of two hubs and a blade tip theoretically visible on the skyline where the route gently gains elevation near Caerleon. The Proposed Development would often be screened by the urban environment and/or vegetation along the route and in successive layers along field boundaries (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium, across the two localised sections of the route where unobstructed visibility is available, to Zero for the majority of the Cistercian Way due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** for two localised sections of the route to None for the majority of the Cistercian Way. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)</u> Although the route does not pass in close proximity to any existing and consented wind farms, several schemes would be theoretically intervisible along the route subject to screening from intervening built form or vegetation. The consented scheme at Twyn Hywel would be theoretically visible to the north from parts of the route southwest of Caerphilly (Low magnitude), whilst the consented Manmoel Wind Farm and operational single turbines would be theoretically visible from along the Sirhowy Valley ridge (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> Several planning application schemes would theoretically be visible from along the route due to their close relative proximity to the proposed turbines. The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn would be most

Recreational Route	Assessment
	visible from Twmbarlwm although partially screened by intervening forest (Medium magnitude) whilst Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abertillery would be visible at greater distances as the route approaches Caerleon (both Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Ebbw Valley Walk	Baseline Description: The Ebbw Valley Walk follows the Ebbw Valley connecting the Sirhowy Valley Country Park, ~3.9km to the southwest of the Proposed Development, with Festival Park, ~13km to the northwest near Waun-Lwyd. At its closest point, the route passes within 1.9km of the nearest turbine on the western side of the Ebbw Valley to the west of Abercarn. Assessment: Proposed Development Although the majority of the route within the 10km of the Proposed Development is overlapped by the ZTV, actual visibility along the route would be restricted in places due to forestry, woodland and/or the surrounding built environment as follows: ● The southern section of the route between the Sirhowy Valley Country Park and Newbridge follows the western flanking slopes of the Ebbw Valley where coniferous forestry is extensive, enclosing outward visibility from the Ebbw Vale Walk. Northwest of Abercarn, at the route's closest point to the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would be visible fleetingly as the route crosses Pant-Y-Resk Road before crossing a short section (~175m) of recently felled coniferous forestry near Rock of Ages, allowing open views across the Ebbw Valley. The Proposed Development would form a prominent new vertical feature of easterly views from this location within 1.9km of the proposed turbines. As the route progresses north, it enters a network of smaller-scale, enclosed fields where mature boundary vegetation would frequently restrict views to the Proposed Development before the Ebbw Vale Walk enters the built-up area of Newbridge. ● North of Newbridge, and south of Trinant/ Pen-Twyn, the route crosses the western side of the Ebbw Valley where views to the proposed turbines would be regularly fragmented by the well-vegetated boundaries of the network of small-to-medium scale fields. Northeast of Croespenmaen, the Ebbw Vale Walk would be completely enclosed by mature woodland for a ~0.6km section as it traces the route of the B4251 Kendon Road. To the east of Trinant, unobstructed south-easterly views of the Proposed Development would be available across the looped section of the route as it rounds Coed Trinant. ● North of Trinant, between 5-10km from the proposed turbines, south-easterly views of the Proposed Development would become increasingly fragmented and partial due to the screening influence of intervening mature field boundary vegetation and more extensive areas of coniferous forestry flanking the Ebbw Valley at Graig Fawr, Aberbeeg and Llan-dafal. Southeast of Manmoel, the route passes in close proximity to the operational wind turbine at Pen Y Fan Ganol Farm which subsequently forms a prominent vertical feature of south-easterly views towards the Proposed Development as the Ebbw Vale Walk proceeds in a broadly north-westerly direction to Waun Lwyd. Further, more distant views would be available as the route passes west of Cwm. The magnitude of change would range from High, across more elevated parts of the route where unobstructed visibility is available, to Zero due to the intervening screening influence of landform, areas of vegetation and the built

Recreational Route	Assessment
	environment. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The existing Pen Y Fan Ganol Farm Turbine would be visible in close proximity as the route passes Mynydd Pent-y-fan (High-Medium magnitude). The consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would also be visible in views to the north, northeast and east as the route progresses between Abercarn and Manmoel passing within 1.8km west of Cwm (High to Zero magnitude). Manmoel Wind Farm would also be partially visible from this location (Cwm) in the opposite direction to the Proposed Development (High to Zero magnitude). Other wind turbines would be theoretically visible from the route including Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale business park (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude) and single turbines at greater distances (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development with Pen Y Fan Ganol Farm, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhilleth, Trecelyn, and Abertillery (all High to Zero magnitude) would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development along the same ridgeline in open, elevated views. The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development in combination with several existing, consented and application wind farms) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Monmouthshire Way	Baseline Description: The Monmouthshire Way comprises a 187km circular route through south east Wales encompassing parts of the Usk Valley, the BBNP and the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b** and Viewpoint 15 (**Figure 6-32**) is located on the route which is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**. Assessment: Proposed Development: The majority of the route of the Monmouthshire Way is located beyond 10km from the Proposed Development to the north and east. Within 10km, the route passes along the eastern edge of the BBNP, through Pontypool and continues west of Pontpool towards Abertillery, passing to the to the north and northeast of the proposed turbines at a minimum separation distance of 7.4km. The nearest area of ZTV coverage along the route is indicated as the route ascends the southeastern slopes of Byrgwm and continues to the summit and along the western flanking upper slopes at a distance of 7.7km-9.4km. This section of the route coincides with the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge and is assessed as part of that receptor group (Low magnitude). Further ZTV coverage is indicated as the route crosses elevated land on the boundary of the BBNP from north of Little Mountain to the open ridgeline of upland plateau at Mynydd Garn Wen at a distance of between 9.6km and 12km distance. This section of route is also overlapped by the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge and is assessed and is assessed as part of that receptor group and in **Appendix 6K** for Viewpoint 15 (**Figure 6-32**) (Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Low, across more elevated and exposed sections of the route where unobstructed visibility is available, to Zero

Recreational Route	Assessment
	due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The effects would be Not Significant due to distance and the resulting small vertical and horizontal portion of the view as well as occasional screening from vegetation. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be several existing and consented wind farms visible from this route. The nearest include the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn visible to the west, which would be visible from Waun Wen at ~1.8km distance (High magnitude), and the consented Manmoel to the northwest (Medium-Low magnitude). There would be several other wind farms visible at greater distances to the southwest from this location including Oakdale, Paen-y-Fan and Twyn Hywel (all Low magnitude) and several visible in clear conditions at greater distances (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and to a lesser extent, Manmoel and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Several planning application schemes would be theoretically visible with from along the route due to their close relative proximity to the proposed turbines. The route would pass through the Abertillery and Mynydd Llanhilleth planning application schemes (both Very High magnitude), whilst the scheme at Mynydd Maen would be visible to the south from Waun Wen (High magnitude) and Trecelyn would also be visible in views from Mynydd Machen (High-Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to several consented and planning application wind farms) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Raven Walk	Baseline Description: The Raven Walk comprises a circular walk above the Sirhowy and Ebbw valleys, south of Abercarn. The route is illustrated in **Figures 6-14a-b** with Viewpoints 6 (**Figure 6-23**) and 26 (**Figure 6-43**) located on the route and Viewpoint 2 (**Figure 6-19**) located adjacent to the Raven Walk. A detailed assessment of the visual effects from these viewpoints is reported in **Appendix 6K.** Assessment: Proposed Development Much of the western half of this route between Mynydd Machen (Viewpoint 6, Medium magnitude) and the Mynyddislwyn SLA (Viewpoint 26, High magnitude) overlaps the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge and is assessed as part of that receptor group (overall High to Zero magnitude). From Mynyddislwyn, the route continues east and departs the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge to the south of Cwmcarn as it continues along the lower slopes of Carn Valley (Cwm Carn). In this section, the route passes within ~1km of the nearest turbine. Crossing Nant Carn at the base of the valley, the route then climbs the southern slopes and continues southeast immediately west of Twmbarlwm. Despite close proximity to the turbines, ZTV coverage along this section of the route is fragmented with the greatest theoretical visibility indicated at Cwmcarn where the views northeast along the valley align with the turbines, and again as the route climbs out of Cwm Carn towards Twmbarlwm. From Cwmcarn there would be intermittent visibility of all three

Recreational Route	Assessment
	turbines and upper hubs which would form prominent new features in the view (eastbound) at ~1.2km distance (High magnitude). Similarly for westbound users, there would be views of all three turbines between west of Twmbarlwm and the middle to lower slopes of Cwm Carn at distances between 1.2km and 1.9km (High magnitude). Views from this section of the route would be similar to those illustrated for Viewpoint 2, (**Figure 6-19**) and assessed in **Appendix 6K**. There is no ZTV coverage between west of Twmbarlwm and Glenside/Black Vein. From Glenside/Black Vein ZTV coverage is indicated where the route begins to climb the north facing slopes of the Sirhowy Valley towards Viewpoint 6 on Mynydd Machen (Medium magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from High across localised sections of the route where less restrictive visibility is available, to Zero for the remainder of the route due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)</u> A detailed cumulative assessment is reported in **Appendix 6K** for Viewpoints 2, 6, and 26. In summary, the maximum cumulative magnitude would be Medium (at Viewpoint 6), due to the consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm. The additional and combined effect would continue to be **Major** and **Significant** to None. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> A detailed cumulative assessment is reported in **Appendix 6K** for Viewpoints 2, 6, and 26. In summary, a short section of the route near Twmbarlwm would pass in close proximity to the planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn, which would result in a High to Zero magnitude of change. The additional and combined effect would continue to be **Major** and **Significant** to None.
Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk	<u>Baseline Description:</u> The Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk is a circular 44.4km route that follows public rights of way and minor roads across the hills surrounding the Rhymney Valley. The western part of the route lies within 10km of the Proposed Development arcing between Caerphilly to the southeast and Nelson to the northwest, passing~4.3km southeast of the Site at its closest point. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b** and Viewpoints 6 (**Figure 6-23**), 7 (**Figure 6-24**) and 18 (**Figure 6-35**) which are located on the route are assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development:</u> An area of ZTV coverage is illustrated by **Figures 6-14a-b** south of the Proposed Development where the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk follows the route of the Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk at Mynydd Machen. Between the summit of Mynydd Machen, where an existing communications mast is present, and Twyn Gwyn, walkers travelling along an ~2.3km section of the route would experience channelled north-easterly views through the Ebbw Valley. This part of the route overlaps with the Raven Walk (Viewpoint 6, Medium magnitude of change) The route then follows the southern side of the Sirhowy Valley at a higher elevation than that of the Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk, skirting areas of coniferous forestry on the southern side of the Sirhowy Valley. A consistent area of ZTV coverage covering a 4.9km section of the route between Pen-heol-machen and southeast of Maesycwmmer is indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b**, over

Recreational Route	Assessment
	a minimum distance of ~6.1km to the southwest of the Proposed Development. Viewpoint 7 (**Figure 6-24**) is located on this section of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and illustrates the proposed turbines would be visible as new structures on the visible horizon of north-easterly views (Medium magnitude). The route passes in close proximity to the operational turbines at Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth in this location with an operational solar farm and two communications masts also visible north of Mynydd y Lan. At Maesycwmmer, the ZTV becomes fragmented. After passing through Maesycwmmer, the route is densely vegetated as it passes through the suburban area of Hengoed and to the northwest of Ystrad Mynach, which would limit outward easterly visibility towards the Proposed Development (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The western part of this route lies beyond 10km and passes between Ystrad Mynach and south of Caerphilly, crossing open elevated areas including Mynydd Milo where walkers at Viewpoint 18 (**Figure 6-35**) are predicted to experience a Low magnitude of change. The route turns east again at Thornhill and overlaps the Cambrian Way / Cistercian Way and Celtic Way as it heads towards Rudry and Machen through and adjacent to woodland and forest (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium, across more elevated and open sections of the route where unobstructed visibility is available, to Zero due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)</u> There would be several existing and consented wind farms visible from this promoted route. The nearest include the consented Twyn Hywel which would be most visible from the western section of the route (beyond 10km) as it passes between Ystrad Mynach and Caerphilly and within 250m of the turbines as it skirts Twyn Hywel hill (Very High to Zero magnitude). The route also passes single turbines at Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth as it approaches Maesycwmmer from the south (both High magnitude for short distances). There would be several other wind farms visible at greater distances from Mynydd Machen including Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Manmoel and Mynydd-y-Glyn (all Low magnitude) and further wind farms visible in clear conditions at greater distances (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel and Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> Several planning application wind farm schemes would be theoretically visible from along the route due to their close relative proximity to the proposed turbines, particularly from Mynydd Machen, where the route would pass closest to them. These include the schemes at Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Trecelyn (all Medium to Zero magnitude). The planning application scheme at Abertillery would be intervisible at greater distances (Low to Zero magnitude). The proposed turbines would appear as part of this cluster of wind farm development. The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel and Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

Recreational Route	Assessment
Taith Torfaen Anything Challenge	Baseline Description: The Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge (82km) is separated into two sections, a northern and southern loop, both starting and finishing at the Pontypool Active Living Centre in Torfaen. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b**. Viewpoints 2 (**Figure 6-19**), 4 (**Figure 6-21**), 6 (**Figure 6-23**), 15 (**Figure 6-32**), 26 (**Figure 6-43**) and 27 (**Figure 6-44**) are located on the route and the visual effects at these locations are assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**. For consistency and to prevent repetition, the viewpoint assessment along the route is cross referenced to **Appendix 6K** and summarised where appropriate. Assessment: Proposed Development Southern circuit: The southern circuit of the route lies within 0.8km of the Proposed Development at its closest point, originating in Pontypool and leaving the south-eastern edge of the settlement to cross the foothills of Twyn Calch; outside the theoretical visibility pattern of the Proposed Development (**Figures 6-14a-b**). ZTV coverage is indicated for the route as it climbs towards Mynydd Twyn-glas and turns south along the ridgeline to Mynydd Maen. Viewpoint 4 (**Figure 6-21**) illustrates views from the summit of Mynydd Maen (Medium magnitude). The route then passes along the southeast facing slopes at Mynydd Henllys in a broadly southwest direction along the boundary of ZTV coverage and in close proximity to the proposed turbines. However, extensive forestry and steep landform would screen views of the majority of the proposed turbines. As the route continues southwest it leaves the slopes and forest edge, crossing the more open adjacent hills at Twmbarlwm. At Twmbarlwm there would be views across the valley towards the Proposed Development as illustrated in Viewpoint 2 (**Figure 6-19**) (High magnitude). From Twmbarlwm, the route proceeds south and crosses the Sirhowy Valley at Crosskeys, climbing the south of the valley at Glenside / Black Vein. This section of the route is outwith ZTV coverage. ZTV coverage is again indicated as the route climbs the middle and upper valley sides between Glenside and the summit at Mynydd Machen. The northern part of this section is routed through woodland and views would be mostly screened or heavily filtered until the middle and upper slopes of Mynydd Machen where there would be open views towards hubs and blades as illustrated in Viewpoint 6 (**Figure 6-23**) (Medium magnitude). Views of the turbines would continue as the route travels west along the ridgeline to Penllan Farm where the route descends into the Sirhowy Valley. There would be no theoretical visibility until the route ascends east and reaches Mynyddislwyn. As the southern loop of the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge proceeds west across the open moorland at Mynyddislwyn, there would be theoretical visibility of up to three turbines. This is illustrated at Viewpoint 26 (**Figure 6-43**) (High magnitude). There is no ZTV coverage indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b** for a short distance as the southern loop crosses the Ebbw Valley at Abercarn until the route reaches the north of the settlement at Llanfach and ascends the wooded, north flanking slopes of Cwm Gwyddon. This section of the route passes within 0.8km of the turbines. Views of up to three hubs and upper towers affecting approximately 50° of the horizontal FoV would be available from this section of the route, where visible between gaps in, or above, vegetation (intermittent High magnitude). Visibility would however be mostly screened by forest as the route ascends the upper western slopes of Mynydd Llwyd. Viewpoint 27 (**Figure 6-44**) illustrates views from this section of the route and shows the screening effect of forestry and woodland (Medium magnitude). There is no further ZTV coverage as the route continues through forest at Coed Golynos to Pontypool. Northern circuit: ZTV coverage across the northern loop of the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge is concentrated across two upland areas to the northeast and north of the Site. To the northeast, the route leaves the northern edge of Pontypool at Penygarn and crosses Little Mountain on the boundary of the BBNP to the open ridgeline of upland plateau at Mynydd Garn Wen and east of

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Mynydd Garnclochdy. The primary orientation of elevated views in this location is to the east, over the Usk Valley towards the BBNP. Views from this section of the route are illustrated at Viewpoint 15 (**Figure 6-32**) (Very Low magnitude). To the north, further ZTV coverage is shown across the very minor part of the route east of Coety Mountain and for a more sustained portion of the route as it crosses the open moorland east of Abertillery between Gwastad, Waun Wen and Byrgwm. While the Proposed Development would form new, man-made vertical features of southerly views this introduction would be experienced in the context of the operation wind turbines at Coed y Gilfach Farm (Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from High, across more elevated and exposed sections of the route where unobstructed visibility is available, to Zero due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)</u> A detailed cumulative assessment is reported in **Appendix 6K** for Viewpoints 2 (**Figure 6-19**), 4 (**Figure 6-21**), 6 (**Figure 6-23**), 15 (**Figure 6-32**), 26 (**Figure 6-43**) and 27 (**Figure 6-44**). In summary, the maximum cumulative magnitude would be Medium (at Viewpoint 6), due to the consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm. The additional and combined effect would continue to be **Major** and **Significant** to None. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> A detailed cumulative assessment is reported in **Appendix 6K** for Viewpoints 2 (**Figure 6-19**), 4 (**Figure 6-21**), 6 (**Figure 6-23**), 15 (**Figure 6-32**), 26 (**Figure 6-43**) and 27 (**Figure 6-44**). In summary, parts of the route would pass through or in close proximity to the planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen (Viewpoint 4) and Trecelyn (Viewpoint 27) resulting in a Very High magnitude of change. The additional and combined effect would continue to be **Major** and **Significant** to None
Torfaen Trail	<u>Baseline Description:</u> The Torfaen Trail forms a figure of eight loop from Cwmbran, in the south, to Blaenavon, in the north, the majority of which lies within 10km of the Site. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b.** <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is shown for a localised section of the southern loop to the southeast of Cwmbran, where up to two blade tips would be barely perceptible in the view and subject to screening from the urban surroundings (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Across the northern loop of this figure of eight route, ZTV coverage indicated in **Figures 6-14a-b** is limited to theoretical visibility of one turbine within 10km of the Proposed Development as the route traverses Lasgarn Wood increasing to up to three turbines as the route progresses west of Mynydd Garnclochd at distances beyond 10km. In reality, views towards the Proposed Development would be frequently screened by the successive areas of coniferous forestry at Freehold Wood, Company's Wood and Lasgarn Wood as well as further areas of mature deciduous and mixed woodland southwest of Mynydd Garnclochdy. Where visible, the Proposed Development would introduce new man-made structures (up to two hubs and a blade tip) to a narrow part of the visible horizon over a separation distance ranging from ~10km to ~12km (Very Low to Zero magnitude).

Recreational Route	Assessment
	The magnitude of change would range from Very Low, across more elevated and exposed sections of the route where less restricted visibility is available, to Zero due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment for the majority of the route. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The route does not pass in close proximity to any existing and consented wind farm schemes and there is very limited visibility of distant existing and consented wind farm development (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Several planning application wind farms would theoretically be visible from along the route due to their close relative proximity. The planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would be visible from the southern loop of the Torfaen Trail (Medium magnitude) whilst the schemes at Abertillery (High magnitude), Mynydd Llanhilleth (High-Medium magnitude), and Trecelyn (Low magnitude) would be visible from open sections of the route at Mynydd Garnclochdy. The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Abertillery and Mynydd Llanhilleth, and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk	Baseline Description: The Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk connects the edge of Newport in the south with Tredegar to the north. The route passes within ~4.3km of the closest proposed turbine, to the south of Crosskeys. The route is illustrated on **Figures 6-14a-b** and Viewpoint 6 is located on the route which is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K.** Assessment: Proposed Development: Fragmented ZTV coverage of between one and three turbines is indicated between the route's origin in the city of Newport and Lower Ochrwyth. Actual visibility towards the proposed turbines would be mostly screened by the built urban environment and vegetation as the route passes through Newport and Rogerstone with occasional open views for example at Ridgeway (Very Low to Zero magnitude). ZTV coverage becomes more consistent as the route passes between Lower Ochrwyth and Pen-heol-machen (~5km section of the route) from where up to three turbines would theoretically be visible at a minimum distance of 4.3km. Views would be intermittently screened by intervening trees and hedgerows although there would be open views near Mynydd Machen where up to three hubs would be visible to the north (Medium magnitude). At Pen-heol-machen, the route descends towards the lower slopes of the valley and ZTV coverage becomes sparse with localised areas of theoretical visibility indicated at Pontllanfraith, Fairoak where views would be screened by intervening vegetation and buildings. The Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk leaves the valley floor at Twyn-gwyn and ZTV coverage is indicated for ~3km as the route passes through Manmoel. Views from this section of the route would be filtered by roadside vegetation. Where views are available, the proposed turbines would be visible beyond the existing Pen-y-fan Ganol Farm, Pen-y-fan Industrial estate and Oadkdale

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Business Park turbines, where they would appear as more distant turbines (between 9.3km and 11km distance) (Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium, for the part of the route between Lower Ochrwyth and Pen-heol-machen, to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** for the part of the route near Mynydd Machen to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Although the route does not pass through any existing and consented wind farms, several schemes would be theoretically visible from along the route subject to screening from intervening built form or vegetation. The consented scheme at Twyn Hywel would theoretically be visible to the west, particularly from Mynydd Machen (Medium magnitude) whilst the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn would also be visible from this part of the route, as well as in much closer proximity from Manmoel (High magnitude). Further to the north, the existing Pen-y-fan Ganol Farm, Pen-y-fan Industrial estate and Oadkdale Business Park turbines would be visible to the southeast (Medium magnitude). Other turbines would be theoretically visible from along sections of the Sirhowy Ridgeway Walk at greater distances in glimpsed or open views (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Llanhilleth, Abertillery and Mynydd Maen would be visible from the Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk covering a large horizontal extent of the horizon from Manmoel (High magnitude) whilst the planning application scheme at Trecelyn would be visible in views from Mynydd Machen (High magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to several existing, consented and application wind farms with the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

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

6.13.8. The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by people at key outdoor recreational destinations, local PRoWs and Open Access Land, which are overlapped by the ZTV within 10km of the Proposed Development. The assessment also considers the visual effects on the views of recreational receptors within the Bannau Bycheiniog National Park, which are overlapped by the ZTV, within the 27km LVIA Study Area.

6.13.9. All of the destinations have been assessed as 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.

6.13.10. In summary, there would be significant visual effects on two outdoor recreational destinations: Maes Manor Hotel where there would be potential views from the wider grounds but not the main

building and garden area, and from the Sirhowy Valley Country Park in glimpsed views along the Ebbw Valley from woodland and forest areas south of Crosskeys. Significant visual effects would also be experienced on several PRoWs and within areas of Open Access Land within 10km of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant visual effects beyond 10km.

Table 6.24 Visual effects on the views from key outdoor recreational destinations, open access land, local PRoW and nationally designated landscapes

Recreational Route	Assessment
Visitors to Historic Parks and Gardens (within 10km of the Proposed Development)	
Tredegar Park	Baseline Description: Tredegar Park is illustrated on **Figures 6-15a-b** and is located to the western edge of Newport. The Park is bisected by the M4, A467, and A48 which has created four 'units' within the same overall geographical location. The Park is located approximately 8.6km southeast of the Proposed Development. Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTV at **Figures 6-15a-b**, the majority of Tredegar Park lies within the ZTV, with visibility of up to three turbines indicated on elevated areas within the northern, southern and western areas of the Park, reducing to theoretical visibility of up to two turbines across the central and northwestern areas. North-westerly views towards the Site would be partly restricted by intervening tree cover on the western boundaries of Tredegar Park and by dispersed mature trees and riparian woodland. Wireline analysis indicates that up to two hubs and a blade tip would be theoretically visible. At most, views towards the turbines would be filtered winter views from elevated open areas, reducing to no visibility from the majority of areas within Tredegar Park (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be potential visibility of the operational Solutia turbines in views to the east, subject to screening (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would be visible adjacent to the proposed turbines in filtered winter views from elevated open areas (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
St Woolos Cemetery	Baseline Description: The location of St Woolos Cemetery is illustrated on **Figures 6-15a-b**, which indicate its position of the north-western edge of Newport. The Cemetery gains elevation to the west and is located approximately 8.7km to the southeast of the Proposed Development at its closest point. Assessment: Proposed Development The blade tip ZTV in Figures **6-15a-b** indicates that there would be views of up to three turbines from the western and southern edges of the Cemetery. Wireline analysis indicates that up to two hubs and one blade tip would be

Recreational Route	Assessment
	theoretically visible on the horizon to the northwest. Actual visibility from within St Woolos Cemetery would be largely restricted by dispersed mature trees and a mature belt of trees along the northern edge of the cemetery. At most, views towards the turbines would be filtered winter views or glimpses from the west or southern edges, reducing to no visibility from the majority of St Woolos Cemetery (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be potential visibility of the consented Mynydd-y-Glyn Wind Farm to the west, subject to screening from vegetation (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would be visible adjacent to the proposed turbines in filtered winter views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Maes Manor Hotel	Baseline Description: Maes Manor Hotel is located to the on the western flank of the Sirhowy Valley to the north of Blackwood. The Hotel is situated at an elevated location on the middle to upper slopes of the valley and oriented to the south-southeast with the primary view along the Sirhowy Valley and the A4048 Chartist Bridge. Maes Manor Hotel is located approximately 6.8km to the northwest of the Proposed Development at its closest point. Assessment: Proposed Development The ZTV illustrated in **Figures 6-15a-b** indicates visibility of up to three turbines across the hotel grounds. Wireline analysis (undertaken via the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates that all three turbines including hubs and towers would be theoretically visible on the skyline to the southeast. Actual visibility from the main hotel buildings and formal garden area would be predominantly screened by mature woodland which flanks the garden and hotel buildings to the east and southeast, although filtered winter views are likely to be available (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Potential open views towards the Proposed Development would be available from the wider grounds to the southeast, beyond the mature trees (Medium-Low magnitude). The magnitude of change from the hotel buildings and main vista would be Very Low to Zero increasing to Medium-Low to Zero from within the wider grounds. The resulting level of effect would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None from the hotel buildings and **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** from the wider grounds. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be theoretical visibility of several consented and existing wind farms from open areas within the wider grounds of Maes Manor Hotel including Twyn Hywel to the southwest (Medium magnitude) and the more distant Mynydd-y-Glyn (Low-Very Low magnitude). Other wind farms would either be screened by vegetation to the northeast, be located at greater distances or would only be visible as blade tips, which would not result in significant effects.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None from the hotel buildings and **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** from the wider grounds. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn would be visible to the east-southeast in filtered views Maes Manor Hotel (both Very Low to Zero magnitude) whilst the schemes at Abertillery and Mynydd Llanhilleth would be screened by vegetation in views to the northeast (Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None from the hotel buildings and **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and Significant from the wider grounds. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Key outdoor recreational destinations (within 10km of the Proposed Development)	
Pen-y-Fan Pond Country Park	Baseline Description: Pen-y-Fan Pond Country Park is located on the upper south facing slopes of Mynydd Pen-y-fan hill, to the northwest of the Proposed Development at ~6.8km distance. The main focal point for visitors is the Pen-y-fan Pond to the south of the park. Scattered trees and to the north of the pond and tree belts to the south and east of the park restrict views of the wider landscape. Viewpoint 9 (**Figure 6-26**) is located in Pen-y-Fan Pond Country Park and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K**. Assessment: Proposed Development **Figure 6-15a-b** indicates ZTV cover across Pen-y-Fan Pond Country Park. Views of the proposed turbines from the park are illustrated in **Figure 6-26** (Viewpoint 9) which show the heavily filtered nature of views towards the Proposed Development and the detailed viewpoint assessment in **Appendix 6K** identified a Low magnitude of change. Views of the Proposed Development from this location would be experienced in the context of existing overhead transmission lines and lattice towers, within the same horizontal field of view, as well as the prominent operational wind turbines at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park which lie to the southwest. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None given the restricted nature of views and the presence of existing vertical infrastructure in close proximity to the Pen-y-Fan Pond Country Park. The nature of the effects experienced by users of the park would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Existing turbines at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park would be visible in views to the southwest at a minimum distance of ~500m from the southern edge of the pond, although partially screened by foreground vegetation (High magnitude). Several other existing and consented wind farms would theoretically be visible including the hubs of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn to the north at ~2.2km distance (High-Medium magnitude), Pen-y-Fan Ganol Farm to the north (Medium magnitude), with the consented scheme at Twyn Hywel mostly screened to the southwest (Very Low magnitude). Other wind turbines would theoretically be visible at greater distances or would be screened and would not result in significant effects. The additional level of effect from the

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be filtered views of several planning application wind farms to the east and northeast including Mynydd Maen, Trecelyn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abertillery (all Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would remain **Major** and **Significant** (due to Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Sirhowy Valley Country Park	Baseline Description: Sirhowy Valley Country Park is located on the southern and western slopes flanking the Sirhowy River Valley as it curves around landform between Crosskeys and Wyllie at a minimum distance of ~3.6km (at Crosskeys) from the Proposed Development. Forestry restricts views from much of the park, however there are open areas particularly on higher slopes to the south of the park. Assessment: Proposed Development **Figures 6-15a-b** indicate that large parts of the Sirhowy Valley Country Park along the base and lower hill slopes of the Sirhowy Valley would lie outwith theoretical visibility coverage for the Proposed Development. However, areas of ZTV coverage are indicated on the upper slopes at the western and southwestern fringes of the park, and more extensive theoretical visibility is indicated across southeastern areas within the park between Black Vein and Brynawel. Viewpoint 6 (**Figure 6-23**) is located in close proximity to the western boundary of the Sirhowy Valley Country Park and is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K.** Views from the most extensive area of ZTV coverage to the southwest of Crosskeys would be mostly restricted by extensive forest and woodland. Where views exist, ZTV coverage indicates up to three turbines would be theoretically visible. Wireline analysis shows a maximum visibility of one turbine including tower and two hubs in views along the Ebbw Valley. Actual visibility would be mostly screened by forestry although there would be potential glimpsed views through gaps in the trees (Medium to Zero magnitude). Views from the western fringes of the park would be restricted to filtered winter views through deciduous woodland areas west of Tyle Crwth and Twyn yr Oerfel where wirelines indicate theoretical visibility of up to three turbine blades (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None, due to the extensive woodland and forestry cover. The nature of the effects experienced by users of the park would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Tyle Crwth and Bryn Ysgawen Farm turbines would be visible in the opposite direction from the Proposed Development (High-Medium magnitude). Other existing or consented wind farms would be theoretically visible from within the park at greater distances or in heavily filtered views (Very Low to Zero

Recreational Route	Assessment
	magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Tyle Crwth and Bryn Ysgawen Farm) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be filtered views of the planning application scheme at Trecelyn from south of Crosskeys (Medium to Zero magnitude), and the planning application schemes at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abertillery from the western edge of the park in heavily filtered winter views (both Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant**, to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Tyle Crwth and Bryn Ysgawen Farm) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Parc Coetir Bargod Country Park	Baseline Description: Parc Coetir Bargod Country Park is located along the Rhymney River Valley as it passes between Bargoed and Aberbargoed at a minimum distance of ~7.8km from the Proposed Development. Many of the views within the park are channelled along the valley to the north or south although there would be some more elevated views from the valley sides and at Bargoed Woodland Park. Linear woodland belts along the river, roads and contours are a characteristic of the park and often restrict middle or longer distance views. Assessment: Proposed Development ZTV coverage is limited to an isolated elevated area within the park at Bargoed Woodland Park where up to three turbines would be theoretically visible. Wireline analysis indicates that up to three blade tips would be theoretically visible in views to the southeast. In reality, the blade tips would not be perceptible in the view and would be screened by intervening near, middle and far distance vegetation (Zero magnitude). Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The absence of visibility with the Proposed Development means that no cumulative visual effects could occur. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The absence of visibility with the Proposed Development means that no cumulative visual effects could occur.
Parc Penalta Country Park	Baseline Description: Parc Penallta Country Park is located to the west of Hengoed and was formed on a former spoil heap providing an elevated location. It is situated a minimum distance of ~8.7km from the proposed turbines. The park contains areas of woodland and open elevated locations providing some potential views across the surrounding landscape. Assessment: Proposed Development ZTV coverage is limited to the eastern edge of Parc Penallta Country Park and a small band of theoretical visibility across the centre of the park. Wireline analysis (undertaken using the ReSoft WindFarm software) indicates that up to three turbines with towers would be theoretically visible in views to the east, with visibility reducing to hubs from the centre of the park. In reality, potential views of the turbines would be mostly screened by woodland planting to the east of the park, roadside trees along Penallta Road and woodland in the centre of the park. There would however be potential views from an open field

Recreational Route	Assessment
	to the south of the park adjacent to the A472 where there would be filtered views of three hubs and upper towers on the skyline above middle distance trees (Very Low magnitude). Open views would also be available from around The Observatory within the eastern part of the Parc Penallta Country Park from which the three turbines (towers, hubs and full rotator sweep) would be visible at a distance of ~9km. The level of effect would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None, due to the extensive woodland and forest cover. The nature of the effects experienced by users of the park would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be views of the consented Twyn Hywel scheme on the skyline to the south from the area around The Observatory (High magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen as well as the more distant schemes at Abertillery andcMynydd Llanhilleth would be visible from the elevated open area around The Observatory (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None whilst the combined level of effect would remain **Major** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Open Access Land and local PRoWs	
Open Access Land and PRoW within 5km of proposed turbines	Baseline Description: **Figure 6-15a-b** shows a large proportion of the upland landscape to the north, east and south of the Site, above the settled valleys is designated as open access land and also contains numerous PRoW. Assessment: Proposed Development High points where the Proposed Development would be most prominent include open access land and PRoW network across the elevated ridgeline at Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Henllys to the south (Viewpoint 2, **Figure 6-19**) as well as to the open plateau of Mynydd y Lan to the west (Viewpoint 26, **Figure 6-43**). Unrestricted views would also be available from Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd, including their upper slopes to the east of the Site (Viewpoint 4, **Figure 6-21**), and with increasing separation distance, to the north at Cefn y Crib. The distribution of local PRoW within 5km of the proposed turbines is shown in **Figure 6-15b** and extends in all directions around the Site with a number of PRoW also crossing through the Site. Viewpoints located on the PRoW network within 5km of the Proposed Development include Viewpoint 6 (**Figure 6-23**) and Viewpoint 27 (**Figure 6-44**), with the latter demonstrating the screening role of forestry, despite the proximity of this viewpoint location to the proposed turbines. Users of the open access land and local PRoW have a High susceptibility to change and the views in the direction of the Site are assessed to be of Medium to High value resulting in an overall *High* sensitivity. The magnitude of change would range from High to Zero, increasing to Very High for users of the PRoW which cross the Site. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of the effects experienced by users of the open access land and local PRoW would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Operational and consented schemes would have limited visual roles in views from open access land and the local PRoW network within 5km of the Proposed Development (Low to Zero magnitude), with the exception of the local PRoW network at distances of between 4km and 5km to the northwest of the Site, from which there would be views of the operational turbines at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park (Medium magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be close distance views of a number of planning application schemes from open access land and the local PRoW network within 5km of the Proposed Development including Trecelyn, Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llanhilleth (localised Very High magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect would remain **Major** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Open Access Land and PRoW between 5km-10km of the proposed turbines	Baseline Description: **Figure 6.15b** indicates that whilst an extensive network of local PRoWs crosses the landscape at distances of between 5km and 10km of the proposed turbines, areas designated as open access land, are limited. Those that are present within 5-10km of the proposed turbines and coincide with the ZTV occur at Mynydd y. Grug and Mynydd Rudry to the southwest of the Site, the southern tip of Galligaer Common to the northwest of the Site and an extensive area of open access land which covers Mynydd Llanhilleth to the north of the Site. Assessment: Proposed Development For users of the local PRoW routes and open access land which coincide with the ZTV and where there is an absence of foreground vegetation or built form, the proposed turbines would become prominent visual elements as evidenced at Viewpoint 7 (**Figure 6-24**), which is located on a PRoW and open access land close to Mynydd y Grug and Viewpoint 10 (**Figure 6-27**) from a local PRoW to the east of St. Illtyd. The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/ Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of the effects experienced by users of open access land would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The operational wind turbines at Oakdale Business Park, Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate, Pen-y-Fan Ganol Farm, Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth would be prominent visual elements in the views of recreational receptors using the PRoW network to the northwest and southwest of the Site (High magnitude). The consented schemes at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Trecelyn would also be locally prominent for receptors to the west and north/northwest of the Site (High magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/ Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (occurring locally to a number of operational and consented schemes) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)

Recreational Route	Assessment
	There would be close distance views of a number of planning application schemes from open access land and the local PRoW network at 5-10km from the proposed including Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abertillery (localised Very High magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/ Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major** and **Significant** (occurring locally to a number of operational, consented and planning application schemes) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
Notable hill summits and Open Access Land within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (beyond 10km)	Baseline Description: **Figure 6-15a** illustrates the distribution of open access land within the BBNP. Assessment: Proposed Development Areas of Open Access Land which coincide with the blade tip ZTV include Mynydd Garnclochdy, Mynydd y Garn-fawr and the Blorenge (Viewpoint 23, **Figure 6-40**) within the western fringes of the BBNP, and Mynydd Llangatwg, Mynydd Llangynidr (Viewpoint 24, **Figure 6-41**), Cefn yr Ystrad (Viewpoint 25, **Figure 6-42**), Garn Ddu and Cefn Cil-Sanws within the southern fringes of the BBNP. The viewpoint assessments included in **Appendix 6K** report no greater than a Low magnitude of change from the Blorenge reducing to a Low-Very Low magnitude of visual change from the southern fringes of the BBNP, at distances in excess of 18.5km. The views available would be experienced by receptors engaged in outdoor recreation within open access land, principally hill walkers, where the focus of activity is on an enjoyment and appreciation of the landscape. As a result, the susceptibility to visual change is assessed as High. The value of views from within this nationally designated landscape is also considered to be High, giving rise to an overall visual sensitivity of receptors as High. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of the effects experienced by users of the open access land within the BBNP would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The operational wind turbines at Pen Byn Oer, Cruglwyn, Gelli-wen Farm, Oakdale Business Park, Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate, Pen-y-Fan Ganol Farm, Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth are theoretically visible to the southeast together with the distant operational schemes at Ferndale, Fforch Nest, Llwyncelyn Farm, Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref Extension and Mynydd Portref in views towards the Proposed Development. The consented schemes at Manmoel and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, as well as the distant schemes Twyn Hywel and Mynydd y Glyn would also be visible. The magnitude is judged to be Medium. The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Manmoel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Covatec Green as well as those at Abertillery, Mynydd Llanhilleth, Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen would be visible from areas of open access land within the BBNP. The scoping request scheme at Mynydd Bedwellte would also be visible together with distant visibility of the scheme at Llanwonno. The magnitude is judged to be High-Medium. The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be Major to **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Manmoel, Mynydd

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Bedwellte and Convatec Green) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

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

6.13.11. The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by road users accessing the main road network ('A' and 'B' roads) which are overlapped by the ZTV within 10km of the Proposed Development. As recorded in the baseline, the network of 'A' and 'B' roads is mainly routed along valley floors and lower valley sides. Consequently, vehicular receptors' journeys are often routed through extensive areas of built development with limited availability of outward views. The assessment of visual effects from key transport routes ('A' and 'B' roads) is set out in **Table 6.25**.

6.13.12. Road users have a Medium susceptibility to change and the views in the direction of the Site are typically assessed as being of Medium to Low value resulting in an overall Medium sensitivity. Any variation to this Medium sensitivity is recorded under the individual assessments.

6.13.13. In summary, there would be significant visual effects on three transport routes as a result of the introduction of the proposed turbines: A467, A472, and B4591. Significant effects would occur on short sections of the routes as they pass within close proximity (within 3km) of the proposed turbines. Extensive screening along the majority of the routes from roadside vegetation, the built urban environment and/or landform prevent significant effects from greater distances along the routes, although there may be successive significant cumulative effects where there are close range views as routes pass other existing, consented or operational wind turbines.

Table 6.25 Assessment of visual effects from key transport routes ('A' and 'B' roads)

Recreational Route	Assessment
Transport Routes (within 10km of the Proposed Development)	
A467	Baseline Description: Within 10km of the Proposed Development, the A467 passes on a broadly north-to-south alignment, following the Ebbw Valley through south Wales and passing within ~1.4km of the Proposed Development at the closest point, on the northern edge of Abercarn. Assessment: Proposed Development Travelling from south to north along the route, and with reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, visibility of up to two turbines (blades and tips) would theoretically be achievable as the route travels along the Sirhowy Valley between the M4 at Newport and Rogerstone (approximately 4km of the route). Actual visibility would be mostly screened by roadside vegetation and views would be glimpsed (Very Low to Zero magnitude). There are further sections of ZTV coverage as the route passes Pontyminster and Crosskeys from where there would be visibility of up to two turbine blades in the direction of travel (northbound) at Pontyminster for ~0.7km of the route. These would be visible in the 'dip' between the valley sides (Low magnitude). To the south of Crosskeys along the Sirhowy Valley, theoretical visibility of up to one turbine is indicated in the ZTVs, although in relatively, views toward the Proposed Development

Recreational Route	Assessment
	would be heavily filtered by roadside vegetation including during the winter months (Very Low to Zero magnitude). As the route enters the Ebbw Valley and heads north, several sections of ZTV coverage are indicated: as the route travels between Crosskeys and Cwmcarn (for northbound receptors), at Abercarn (for southbound receptors), and at Swffryd (for southbound receptors). From the majority of these sections of highway, views would be predominantly screened by roadside vegetation and the built environment (Very Low to Zero magnitude). There would, however, be glimpsed or filtered winter views of a hub and tower for northbound receptors as they travel along ~400m of the route as it crosses the Ebbw River to the south of Crosskeys (Medium to Zero magnitude). There would also be views of a hub and upper tower in the southbound direction of travel, as the A467 approaches the roundabout to the north of Abercarn at High Meadow (Medium magnitude). Visibility would occur for ~300m of the route before the proposed turbines would be screened by roadside vegetation. The magnitude of change for users of the A467 would range from Medium (for short sections at the highway at Crosskeys and High Meadow) to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)</u> There would be sequential views of consented wind farms to the north as the route passes Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm (High to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)</u> The planning application scheme at Trecelyn would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development as blade tips (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Other planning application schemes at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Maen would be visible in sequential views to the north (both Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
A469	<u>Baseline Description:</u> Within 10km of the Proposed Development, the A469 follows the Rhymney Valley on a broadly north-to-south alignment, passing within ~7.5km of the Proposed Development at the closest point, to the west of Hengoed. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6,** theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines is very limited along the route within 10km of the Proposed Development, with more extensive ZTV coverage indicated to the south of Caerphilly, as road users travel to the south of Watford Park at a separation distance of over 12km. Actual visibility from this section of the route would be screened by roadside vegetation and the built suburban environment. However, there would be some glimpsed views towards the proposed turbines in elevated views from Watford Road, which would be visible as up to three hubs (Low-Very Low magnitude). A further very short section of the route coincides with the ZTV at Tir-y-berth. Whilst up to two blade tips would theoretically be visible in oblique views to the

Recreational Route	Assessment
	south-east for southbound receptors, in reality, the turbines would not be perceptible due to distance and screening by the built environment (Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change for receptors travelling along the A469 would range from Low-Very Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be sequential views of wind farm development as the route passes the consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). From the section of the route to the south of Caerphilly (just beyond 10km from the Proposed Development) there would be several wind farms visible to northbound receptors including Manmoel, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, and several single turbines (Low-Very Low magnitude) with Twyn Hywel also being visible from this section of the A469 (Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel Wind Farm and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Trecelyn Wind Farm and Mynydd Maen would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development from the section of the A469 to the south of Caerphilly as hubs and blades (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel Wind Farm and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
A468	Baseline Description: The A468 connects Nantgarw in the west (beyond 10km from the Proposed Development with Newport via Caerphilly and passes within ~5.7km of the Proposed Development at its closest point, at Machan. Assessment: Proposed Development ZTV coverage in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6** indicates that theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines is very limited from along the route within 10km of the Proposed Development, occurring as the route approaches Newport at Rhiwderin and Bassaleg at a separation distance of over 7.4km. Actual visibility of up to three blade tips from this section of the route would be screened by roadside vegetation and the suburban built environment (Zero magnitude). Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no views of the Proposed Development and therefore no cumulative effects. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be no views of the Proposed Development and therefore no cumulative effects.
B4591	Baseline Description: The B4591 follows the Sirhowy Valley from Newport, turning north at Crosskeys to flank the eastern side of the A467 through the Ebbw Valley to Abercarn.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Assessment: Proposed Development As the route travels from the M4 at Newport to Rogerstone, ZTV coverage indicates between one and three turbines would be theoretically visible. Actual visibility along this section of highway would be screened by the suburban built environment (Zero magnitude). No further ZTV coverage is indicated until the route turns north at Crosskeys. There would be potential glimpsed views of one hub above buildings as the route passes through Crosskeys (northbound) (Low magnitude) and intermittent open views of one turbine (hub, tower and blades) on the eastern flanking valley side for ~300m as the route crosses the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal at Pontywaun and passes recreational space at a distance of ~2.1km from the Proposed Development (High-Medium magnitude). From Cwmcarn there would be occasional fleeting glimpsed views of up to two turbines (hubs and upper towers) in oblique views, particularly as it passes Ivor Street in southbound views (Medium magnitude). The magnitude of change for users of the B4591 would range from High-Medium (for short sections of the B4591 at Pontywaun and Cwmcarn) to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (for short sections) to None (for the majority of the route). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Potential glimpsed views of the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm would be available from this route (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Trecelyn would theoretically be intervisible with the Proposed Development as blade tips and blades (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect from the Proposed Development would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
B4471	Baseline Description: The B4471 links Aberbeeg, in the north, with Swffryd to the south. The route follows the eastern side of the Ebbw Valley and is typically flanked by mature woodland or built development. Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines may occur from ~0.6km section of the road as it passes through Swffryd, west of the A467 and ~0.6km northeast of the Proposed Development. Although some filtering of views would occur as a result of intervening built form within Swffryd, the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible as up to two hubs and a blade. However, intervening middle distance woodland would screen the turbines such that only two blades and a tip would be visible in intermittent views between houses (Low-Very Low magnitude). The visible extents of the Proposed Development would reduce as the route loses elevation to the east. The magnitude of change would be Low for ~0.6km section at Swffryd, to Zero, for the remainder of the route where the Proposed Development would not be visible. The resulting level of effect would range from Minor and Not Significant

Recreational Route	Assessment
	~0.6km section at Swffryd) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Although there would be several consented and existing wind farms visible from this section of the route, they would be seen when travelling in the opposite direction (northbound) and in sequential views between buildings. These include the existing Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park to the northwest (one hub and two blades above intervening vegetation (Medium magnitude)), and the consented Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm to the north (Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate, Oakdale Business Park, and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen planning application schemes would be visible in the same field of view as the Proposed Development in southbound views (both High magnitude). The planning application scheme at Mynydd Llanhilleth would be visible in sequential views to the north (High magnitude), with the proposed scheme at Abertillery also visible to the north in sequential views (Medium magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to several existing, consented and application wind farms and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
A4042	Baseline Description: The A4042 travels on a north-south axis between Newport and Abergavenny. Within 10km of the Proposed Development, it travels between Newport to the south and Usk Vale Park Estate to the north, broadly following the course of the Afon Llwyd valley. Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is illustrated between Newport and Llantarnham, where theoretical visibility reduces to two turbines (two blade tips) and one blade tip at Croesyceiliog. Actual visibility towards the proposed turbines from along the route is restricted by extensive mature vegetation along the A4042 with potential fleeting glimpses available in oblique views as the route crosses bridges or from localised sections of the highway where there is a gap in the vegetation. The blade tips of the proposed turbines however are unlikely to be perceptible. The magnitude of change from the A4042 would be Zero and the resulting level of effect would be None. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no views of the Proposed Development and therefore no cumulative effects. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be no views of the Proposed Development and therefore no cumulative effects.

Recreational Route	Assessment
A472	Baseline Description: The A472 travels on a west-east axis between Usk in the west and Abercynon in the east. Within 10km of the Proposed Development, it travels between Pontypool to the west and Ystrad Mynach to the east. The route passes within ~2.5km of the Proposed Development at the closest point, at Newbridge. Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is indicated along the A472 to the west of Newbridge at four locations as follows (from west to east towards the Proposed Development): ● A ~2.5km section of the route between Wern-ganol and Ystrad Mynach; ● A ~1.8km section of the route between Maesycwmmer and Gelligroes; ● A ~0.2km section at Pentwyn-mawr; and, ● A ~1.2km section of the route between Cwm Dows and the A467 roundabout at Newbridge. Travelling eastbound between Wern-ganol and Ystrad Mynach, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is indicated for a ~2.5km section of the route. In reality, views towards the Proposed Development would be heavily screened by mature roadside vegetation for ~1km of the A472 until it reaches Heol Fawr (road within Nelson) and starts descending towards Tredomen. From here, there would be intermittent elevated views towards the proposed turbines in the direction of travel (eastbound) for ~0.8km until the route reaches Tredomen Roundabout. For this section of the route, the proposed turbines would be intermittently visible as three hubs on the skyline at distances of ~9.2km-10km (Low magnitude). Dense vegetation and the urban built environment screen views for the remainder of the ZTV coverage at Tredomen. Between Maesycwmmer and Gelligroes visibility of up to three turbines is indicated for a ~1.8km section of the route. Views towards the proposed turbines along this section of the A472 would be heavily screened by mature roadside vegetation until the route nears Gelligroes and curves to the southeast where up to two blades/ tips would be visible on the skyline in the direction of travel for ~150m (Very Low magnitude). At Pentwyn-mawr, theoretical visibility of between one and two turbines is indicated by the ZTV. The road is in a cutting at this section, and views are channelled in the direction of travel, which combined with dense vegetation, screens views towards the Proposed Development. Between Cwm Dows and the A467 Celynen Roundabout the road continues in densely vegetated cutting until it reaches a viaduct across the rail line and Ebbw River immediately west of the Celynen Roundabout. As the route crosses the viaduct, views open up along the valley to the north and south and there would be visibility of up to three hubs including one turbine tower in views to the southeast, slightly oblique to the direction of eastbound travel. The turbines would be visible at ~2.5km distance for ~300m of the route and would present new, rotating vertical elements to the view beyond the vertical street lighting and viaduct infrastructure (High to Zero magnitude). There is no ZTV coverage for the remainder of the route within 10km of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change would vary from High, for the ~300km section of the route lying immediately west of Celynen Roundabout in Newbridge, to Zero, for the majority of the route's length where the Proposed Development would not be visible. The resulting level of effect would range from **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (~300m section at Newbridge) to None (the majority of the route). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be limited intervisibility with existing and consented wind farms along the route. At Tredomen there would be theoretical visibility of the single turbines at Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth on the same skyline as the proposed turbines (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind farm would also be theoretically visible to the north along the Ebbw Valley from the viaduct at Celynen Roundabout although it would be mostly screened by vegetation (Very Low to Zero magnitude). There would also be sequential views of the consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm (mostly for westbound road users) in views as the route travels west of Maesycwmmer (Medium magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The proposed turbines would be intervisible with those within the planning application scheme at Trecelyn from along the A472, including at Celynen Roundabout (High to Zero magnitude), as well as the planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llanhilleth (both Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of would remain **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
B4251	**Baseline Description:** The B4251 follows the Sirhowy Valley west from Crosskeys, to Gelligroes before continuing north, having crossed the Sirhowy Valley, to join the A4048 at Blackwood. A separate section of the B4251 links the A4048 at Oakdale with Croespen-maen and Crumlin. **Assessment: Proposed Development** With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is indicated for a ~3.9km of the route as it enters the urban environment at Pontllanfraith and Blackwood (including spurs to Springfield), at a minimum distance of ~4.5km west of the Proposed Development. Actual visibility of the Proposed Development from this section of the road would be substantially reduced by the screening influence of intervening built development and reduced to partial and intermittent visibility, perpendicular to the direction of travel, from a ~0.9km section of the B4251 as it passes open space on Blackwood Road (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Further north, another area of intermittent ZTV coverage is indicated for ~3.2km of the route between Islwyn High School and the A467 at Crumlin. At Islwyn High School, the operational turbines at Oakdale Business Park and Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate are visible from the road. Between Islwyn High School and the roundabout at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate, the mature vegetation flanking the B4251 would screen views towards the Proposed Development to the southeast. South of the Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate roundabout, mature roadside vegetation and the large-scale buildings of the Industrial Estate would continue to screen views towards the Site. As the B4251 proceeds south to approach the junction with Kendon Road, Croespenmaen, short glimpses of the Proposed Development would be seen to the southeast for a ~0.2km stretch of the route, fleetingly and intermittently, for road users travelling towards Croespenmaen and Crumlin (Very Low to Zero magnitude). From the remainder of the route to Crumlin, views southwest towards the Proposed Development would be screened by dense roadside vegetation and the built environment, although there may be glimpsed or filtered winter views

Recreational Route	Assessment
	in the direction of travel (eastbound) as the road turns southwest as it passes Rhiw (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would vary from Very Low, for the short sections where partial visibility of the Proposed Development would be available, to Zero, for the remainder of the route where the Proposed Development would not be visible. The resulting level of effect would range from Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The existing turbines at Oakdale Business Park and Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate would be visible in partially screened views as the route passes Islwyn High School (Medium magnitude). Other consented wind farms which would theoretically be visible in glimpsed views include Twyn Hywel for receptors travelling southbound on the northern part of the route (Very Low magnitude), and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Oakdale Business Park and Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) Several planning application schemes would be visible in the direction of travel (eastbound). These include Trecelyn, Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llanhilleth (all Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Oakdale Business Park and Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
A4051	Baseline Description: The A4051 travels on a north-south axis between Newport and Abergavenny and runs parallel with the A4042 for its entire length. Within 10km of the Proposed Development, it travels between Newport in the south and Sebastopol to the north. Assessment: Proposed Development Visibility of the Proposed Development from along the A4051 would be similar to that assessed along the A4042 above. With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6,** theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is illustrated between Newport and Llantarnham, where theoretical visibility reduces to two turbines (two blade tips) and one blade tip at Oakfield. There would be some views of the proposed turbines in the direction of travel for ~150m as the route orientates to the northwest and approaches the M4 from Newport, and fleetingly glimpsed views between houses and alongside roads in slightly oblique views between the M4 and Oakfield (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would vary from Low-Very Low, for the short sections where partial visibility of the Proposed Development would be available, to Zero, for the remainder of the route where the Proposed Development would not be visible. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)

Recreational Route	Assessment
	There would be no operational or consented wind farms visible from the A4051. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would be visible from west of the M4 and more extensively glimpsed views from the northern section of the route (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
A4048	Baseline Description: Within 10km of the Proposed Development, the A4048 follows the Sirhowy Valley between Springfield and the settlement of Tredegar. Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is indicated across two sections of the route. ZTV coverage is shown for ~1.3km of the A4048 as the road passes through Springfield and Woodfieldside although the majority of the route in this area is lined by mature vegetation which limits outward visibility, channelling views in the direction of travel. However, there would be potential visibility as the route partially aligns with the proposed turbines east of the Penmaen Road Roundabout for ~300m for eastbound road users, where up to two hubs and a blade would be visible at ~4.7km distance (Medium-Low magnitude). Views from the remainder of this section of the route would be screened. A further area of theoretical visibility is indicated for ~2.3km of the A4048 between The Rock and Markham, passing through Argoed. The views of road users travelling in a broadly south-easterly direction, towards the Site, would predominantly be subject to screening by mature roadside vegetation lining the route through the Sirhowy Valley. However, the proposed turbines would be intermittently visible from along an ~0.4km section of the highway between Markham and Argoed, as well as from another ~0.4km length of the route as it passes through Argoed. This visibility would be over a minimum separation distance of ~7.6km and often at an oblique angle to the direction of travel and where the operational turbines at Oakdale Business Park and Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate are already present (~1.3km east) (Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would vary from Medium-Low, where fleeting views of the Proposed Development are available, to Zero, for large parts of the route's length where the Proposed Development would not be visible. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The operational Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale turbines would be intervisible to the east in filtered views (Medium-Low magnitude). The consented scheme at Twyn Hywel would be potentially sequentially to the southeast from Springfield (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect would be Moderate and Not Significant to None (due to the Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale turbines and the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2)

Recreational Route	Assessment
	The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development in filtered views (Medium-Low magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect would be Moderate and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
A48	Baseline Description: The A48 is a long-distance highway between Gloucester and Camarthen via Newport. The route passes within 10km of the Proposed Development for a short distance (0.8km of the route) as it passes between Pont Ebbw Roundabout and Junction 28 of the M4 at Tredegar Park. Assessment: Proposed Development Although coinciding with the ZTV in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, views towards the Proposed Development from this section of the route would be restricted by roadside vegetation. There would be no view of the proposed turbines (Zero magnitude). Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no views of the Proposed Development and therefore no cumulative effects. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) There would be no views of the Proposed Development and therefore no cumulative effects.
A4049	Baseline Description: The A4049 follows the eastern side of the Rhymney Valley between Bryn, in the south, and New Tredegar in the north. Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up three turbines is illustrated for an ~0.9km section of the road to the north of the roundabout with the A472, south of Bryn. Actual visibility of the Proposed Development would be largely supressed in this location by mature roadside vegetation bordering the route to the south and intervening built form. South of Lon Rhymni, for ~0.1km of the A4049, and for a ~0.3km section approaching the roundabout with the A472, up to three turbines (a hub and two blade tips) would be visible on the horizon 6.3km to the east, subject to intervening vegetation. This visibility would represent a minor alteration to a small part of the horizon, experienced fleetingly and perpendicular to the direction of travel as the route approaches the roundabout (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would vary from Very Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) The consented Twyn Hywel Wind Farm would be visible at the roundabout to the southwest and in successive views to the north (High-Medium magnitude). Other operational and consented schemes would be glimpsed from along the route but would not result in a significant level of effect. The additional level of effect from the proposed development would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn would be theoretically intervisible with the Proposed Development in filtered views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** (due to Twyn Hywel and not the Proposed Development) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
B4254	Baseline Description: The B4254 links Blackwood and Pontllanfraith to the east with Nelson and Trelewis in the west via Pengam, Penpedairheol and Gelligaer. Viewpoint 13 (**Figure 6-30**) is located adjacent to the route which is assessed in detail in **Appendix 6K** (Low magnitude). Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is illustrated for two sections of the route. The first area of ZTV coverage comprises an ~1.6km stretch of highway which lies ~5.1km to the west of the Proposed Development between the roundabout with the A4048 in Pontllanfraith, at Twynfilkins Farm, and the roundabout south of Blackwood. This portion of the B4254 encompasses parts of Libanus Road, Highfield Way and a short section of Bryn Road. A second section of theoretical visibility is indicated in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6** between Glan-Y-Nant and Tophill Farm, west of Gelligaer, taking in parts of Pengam Road, Church Road and Gelligaer Road, at a distance of ~8km to the northwest of the proposed turbines. Between Blackwood and Pontllanfraith, mature roadside vegetation would suppress visibility of the Proposed Development for the western section of the indicated theoretical visibility at Bryn Road and the western end of Highfields Way. From the junction with Burnet Drive, the Proposed Development would be visible on the skyline as three hubs and upper towers in views across Pontllanfraith in the direction of travel for eastbound road users. This visibility would continue for a ~1.0km section if Highfield Way as it progresses east to Libanus Road and the junction with Penmaen Road, 5.3km west of the proposed turbines. Actual visibility would be intermittent and often partially screened by intervening built form and mature vegetation flanking the road and experienced in the context of existing telegraph poles and other vertical features including street lighting (Low magnitude). Further west, between Glan-Y-Nant and Tophill Farm, there would glimpsed visibility of the Proposed Development in winter views and between roadside vegetation for eastbound road users to the west of Gelligaer and entering the western edge of the settlement at ~10.5km distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). As the route passes through Gelligaer, visibility of the Proposed Development would be restricted to fleeting and intermittent glimpses through mature roadside vegetation particularly from the eastern edge of the settlement as the route passes Penallta Road (eastbound) where the road aligns with the turbines for ~150m of the route at ~9.6km distance (Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would vary from Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be theoretical visibility with several existing and consented wind farms from the B4254 including Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn to the north in glimpsed views from Penpedairheol (Very Low to Zero magnitude), Twyn Hywel to the south as the route approaches Gelligaer (Medium magnitude), and several single turbines (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant

Recreational Route	Assessment
	to None. The combined level of effect would be Moderate and Not Significant (due to Twyn Hywel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn would be theoretically visible in filtered views (Low to Zero magnitude). The schemes at Abertillery and Mynydd Llanhilleth would also be theoretically visible in a different part of the view from the route at Gelligaer (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be Moderate and Not Significant (due to Twyn Hywel) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
A4046	Baseline Description: The A4046 connects the centre of Aberbeeg with the northern edge of Ebbw Vale. The routes pass within 10km of the Proposed Development between Aberbeeg and Cwm and is bordered by mature woodland of mixed coniferous and deciduous species on steep slopes. Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility is illustrated for an approximately 2.3km section of the road for southbound users between Llan-dafal and Aberbeeg, at a minimum distance of ~7.6km northwest of the Site. The mature vegetation lining this section of the route would all but suppress any visibility of the Proposed Development barring a 0.2km section of the route to the south of the junction at the entrance to Aberbeeg Enduro Track. For this short section of the A4046, up to one hub, upper tower and full rotator sweep would be visible in south-easterly views along the Ebbw Valley. The western margin of the highway is not bordered by vegetation in this location as an existing overhead transmission line crosses overhead with the supporting lattice tower forming a prominent existing feature of the horizontal field of view towards the proposed turbine for south-easterly bound road users. The magnitude of change would vary from Very Low, for the ~0.2km section between Llan-dafal and Aberbeeg, to Zero, for the remainder of the route's length where the Proposed Development would not be visible. The resulting level of effect would range from Minor and Not Significant (~0.2km section between Llan-dafal and Aberbeeg) to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be theoretical visibility with several existing and consented wind farms from the A4046 including the operational Pen y Ganol Farm and consented schemes at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Manmoel. In reality, the mature woodland which lines the highway would screen the majority of views towards these schemes (Low magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would be Minor and Not Significant to None. The combined level of effect would be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn as well as those at Abertillery and Mynydd Llanhilleth would theoretically be visible in filtered views (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would remain Minor and Not Significant to

Recreational Route	Assessment
	None. The combined level of effect would continue to be Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.
M4	Baseline Description: The M4 is a long-distance motorway connecting London and Swansea. The route passes within 10km of the Proposed Development for a short distance (7.5km of the route) as it passes to the north and west of Newport between St Julians and Tredegar (Junction 28). Assessment: Proposed Development With reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6**, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is illustrated for the majority of the route within 10km of the Proposed Development, with a minimum separation of 7.7km from the nearest turbine. Actual visibility would be much more restricted, primarily by the dense mature vegetation bordering the road. Where visibility of the proposed turbines is available, this would be limited to short glimpses, often in oblique views in open areas such as at Junction 26 (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Road users on this route would be travelling at speed, focused mainly on the road ahead and surrounding traffic and would have a Low susceptibility to change. Views in the direction of the Site are assessed to be of Medium to Low value resulting in an overall Medium sensitivity. The magnitude of change would vary from Very Low to Zero. The resulting level of effect would range from Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) There would be no existing or consented wind farms visible as the route passes within 10km of the Proposed Development. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping (Scenario 2) The planning application scheme at Mynydd Maen would theoretically be visible in glimpsed views from the M4 as it passes within 10km of the Proposed Development (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined level of effect be Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

6.14 Preliminary assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects

Wind Farm Development

6.14.1. A preliminary 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**.

Non-Wind Farm Development

6.14.2. In addition to the 27 wind energy developments which have been considered as part of the CLVIA, a photovoltaic electricity generating station (or 'solar farm') is proposed at Cil-lonydd, immediately adjoining the planning application wind farm scheme at Trecelyn, to the north of the Proposed Development. This is currently at planning application stage and has been included in the CLVIA due to its proximity to the Site. Significant cumulative effects in conjunction with the proposed solar farm are considered unlikely for the majority of receptors in the LVIA Study Area given the maximum 2.8m height of the proposed solar panels (with the majority of the site featuring east-west facing solar panels which would be a maximum of 1.4m in height) and the degree of intervening screening provided by mature field boundary vegetation in the vicinity of the Cil-lonydd.

6.14.3. The LVIA which formed part of the Cil-lonydd Solar Farm Volume 1 - Environmental Statement[44] concluded that a High magnitude of change would occur within the part of the Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen (CYNONVS214) VSAA which coincides within the Cil-lonydd site and its immediate environment and a Medium magnitude of change on the wider VSAA. There would be similar High magnitudes of change on the part of the Abercarn VILL which coincides with the Cil-lonydd site, with the Project's LVIA[44] recording a Medium magnitude of change occurring within a distance of up to 0.5km to the east of the site. The additional and combined effect on the VSAA and Abercarn VILL would remain **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant**, although the geographical area across which Significant effects would be experienced would extend across a greater proportion of these landscape receptors. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse. For other landscape receptors within the LVIA Study Area, the Cil-lonydd Solar Farm would have very limited landscape influence.

6.14.4. Locations where there is the potential for visibility of the Cil-lonydd Solar Farm and the Proposed Development include the northern edge of Pantside (which corresponds with Viewpoint 3, **Figure 6-20**), local PRoWs within, along the boundaries of and to the north of the Cil-lonydd Solar Farm site and a small proportion of the open access land which extends across Mynydd Maen to the west of the transmitter masts. From many of these locations, landform or forestry cover would substantially screen views of the proposed turbines. The additional level of effect from the proposed development would commonly be Moderate or Moderate/Minor and Not Significant (as evidenced at Viewpoint 3, **Figure 6-20)** to None. The combined effect would be **Major** or **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Cil-lonydd Solar Farm). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

6.14.5. To the north of the Proposed Development, locations where there is potential visibility of the Cil-lonydd Solar Farm and the Proposed Development include from the ridge of high land which extends northeast of Swffryd and from the upland areas to the south and east of St Illytd, including the settlement of Brynithel. The Cil-lonydd Solar Farm would give rise to a Low to Zero magnitude of change from these areas. The additional and combined effect would be **Major-Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

6.14.6. Areas of common theoretical visibility also extend to the west of the Proposed Development and include the settlements of Trinant/Pen-twyn, Treowen, Newbridge, Abercarn and local PRoW network which crosses the elevated farmland between the settlements. The Cil-lonydd Solar Farm would commonly give rise to a Low to Zero magnitude of change from these areas. The additional

[44] RPS Group (2024) Cil-lonydd Solar Farm Volume 1 - Environmental Statement (Online). Available at: https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case/CAS-02446-R8X8W2 (Accessed November 2025)

and combined effect would be **Major or Major/Moderate** and **Significant** to None (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and adverse.

6.15 Preliminary significance conclusions

6.15.1. A summary of the significant effects identified in the preliminary LVIA is provided in **Table 6.26.** The magnitude of change and level of effect recorded in **Table 6.26** 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.

6.15.2. Effects on receptors not included in **Table 6.26** are judged to be not significant.

Table 6.26 Preliminary summary of significance of effects (operational phase)

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
LANDMAP – Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas				
CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	Medium	High to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	This is one of the 'host' VSAAs for the Proposed Development and all three turbines would be located within CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen. The introduction of the turbines would detract from the "*attractive views both in and out*" of the VSAA and the scale and proximity of the turbines may also overwhelm the small-scale field pattern which exists across Cefn Rhyswg, a proportion of which would be disrupted to maintain bat buffers around the three turbines. Compensatory tree planting beyond the bat buffer zones would strengthen and visually reinforce the field pattern in other parts of the VSAA. From elsewhere within the VSAA, the presence of the forestry would restrict views towards the turbines (as evidenced at Viewpoint 27, **Figure 6-44**), whilst to the northeast, the turbines would be viewed in conjunction with the overhead line which crosses this VSAA on steel lattice pylons (Viewpoint 4, **Figure 6-21**). The magnitude of change would be High within the southern part of the VSAA, reducing to Medium to Low (or Zero) to the northeast and north respectively due to forestry screening and the landscape role of existing vertical infrastructure. Landscape effects would therefore be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant,** decreasing elsewhere and across the majority of his landscape to Moderate to None and Not Significant.
CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate and Significant to None	Whilst T1, T2 and T3 would be sited adjacent to the boundary of this VSAA, the prevalence of forestry cover which dominates this landscape would limit their characterising role from the majority of the VSAA, as evidenced at Viewpoint 3 (**Figure 6-20**) and Viewpoint 27 (**Figure 6-44**), both of which are located on the boundaries of the CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen VSAA. From localised areas of landscape within CYNONVS372 to the north and south of the Proposed Development, the introduction of Proposed Development would indirectly detract from the "*attractive views, both in and out*" although the LANDMAP Survey Sheets also records that "*visual detractors on open ridgelines include overhead power lines and telecom mast, strong intrusive*

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				vertical elements that disrupt the mosaic pattern of the landscape" and consequently, their role would be incremental. The magnitude of change would be Medium from localised parts of the VSAA to the north and south reducing to Low and more commonly Zero within the expansive areas of forestry. Landscape effects would therefore be **Moderate** and locally **Significant** from the area around Twmbarlwm to the south, Moderate and Not Significant from areas to the northeast, where the turbines would be an incremental vertical element and Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None from the majority of the VSAA.
BLNGWVS226 St. Illtyd	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The nearest proposed turbine would be sited approximately 4km to the south of this VSAA. The ZTV coverage (**Figure 6-9d**) is moderately extensive across the VSAA, with the blade tips of all three turbines being visible. The Proposed Development is of a scale and proximity where it may contrast with the distinctive "*pattern of small fields still bounded in parts by stone walls and large hedges, predominately beech, all part of ancient countryside and giving strong sense of place*" and its introduction would indirectly detract from the *"fine views generally west and south into valleys and across to similar areas*". The Proposed Development, where visible, would also dilute the perceptions of "*tranquillity"* which can be found within the VSAA.
TRFNVS024 Unnamed	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate and Significant to None	The nearest proposed turbine would be sited approximately 1.3km to the north of this large VSAA which comprises four separate parcels of land, one which extends from the south to the northeast of the Proposed Development, whilst the remaining three are sited to the north. The ZTV coverage (**Figure 6-9d**) is moderately extensive across the VSAA, with the blade tips and hubs (**Figure 6-5**) of all three turbines being visible from the "*vast*" uplands. The introduction of Proposed Development would indirectly detract from the "*panoramic views over upland areas and over valleys"* with the VSAA's *"strong sense of place"* the *"result of views*". From areas to the south, close to Viewpoint 2 (**Figure 6-19**), the scale of the turbines may alter the "*generally unspoilt*" quality which contributes to the high overall evaluation of the VSAA (Medium magnitude) whilst from areas to the northeast, where the Proposed Development would be perceived in context with the overhead line and masts on Mynydd Maen (Viewpoint 4, **Figure 6-21**), and from areas to the north at distances in excess of 6km, the magnitude of change would be Low to Zero. The level of effect would therefore be **Moderate** and **Significant** from a localised area to the

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				southeast of the Proposed Development and Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None for the remainder of the VSAA.
TRFNVS044 Unnamed	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The nearest proposed turbine would be sited approximately 0.8km to the north of this VSAA which comprises two separate parcels of land, the closet of which coincides entirely with the ZTV coverage (**Figure 6-9d**), whilst the second, larger area which extends across the eastern slopes of Mynydd Henllys lie almost entirely outside of the ZTV. The introduction of Proposed Development would indirectly detract from the "*notable qualities include scenic value for the views of adjacent upland and general unspoilt nature/integrity*", from open areas created by the "*mosaic of field pattern and broadleaf woodland and conifer plantation*". The magnitude of change would be Medium to Zero and the level of effect would therefore be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** from localised areas to the south and southeast of the Proposed Development and Moderate and Not Significant where intervening vegetation reduces its influence to None for the majority of the VSAA.
LANDMAP – Historic Landscape Aspect Areas				
CYNONHL405 Rhyswg	Medium	High	Major/Moderate and Significant	The Proposed Development would be located within this compact HLAA with the blade tip ZTV (**Figure 6-9f**) demonstrating that the proposed turbines would be visible from the majority of the aspect area. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would introduce a new, and direct, man-made vertical influence upon the predominant landscape pattern of "*irregular fieldscape and a settlement pattern of dispersed, isolated farmsteads of medieval/post-medieval origin*". A small proportion of this field pattern would also be disrupted through tree removal to maintain the bat buffers around the three turbines. The gradual maturation of compensatory tree planting beyond the bat buffer zones would strengthen and visually reinforce the field pattern in other parts of the HLAA.
CYNONHL816 Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate and Significant to None	The three turbines would be located close to but beyond the boundary of this HLAA, with the blade tip ZTV (**Figure 6-9f**) demonstrating that the proposed turbines would be visible from the majority of the aspect area. There are no operational wind turbines within the HLAA although transmitter masts and steel lattice pylons supporting an overhead line represent existing vertical elements. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be an incremental man-made vertical influence on the HLAA and would have an indirect adverse effect upon the appreciation of this upland landscape. The magnitude of change would

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				range from Medium from the closest parts of the HLAA to Low, with increased separation distance, screening by coniferous forestry and when perceived in context with existing vertical infrastructure, to Zero for the parts of the HLAA outside the ZTV. Landscape effects would therefore be **Moderate** and **Significant,** decreasing elsewhere and across the majority of his landscape to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant to None.
Local Landscape Designations				
Abercarn VILL	Medium	High to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The Proposed Development would introduce a new vertical human influence to the broad panoramas experienced from more elevated parts of the VILL, as evidenced at Viewpoint 2 (**Figure 6-19**) to the south of the Site and are expected to be dominant landscape elements across hill summits and ridgelines within the VILL. From areas of landscape to the north-east, the Proposed Development would be experienced in the context of existing large-scale vertical man-made features which already have a baseline role in this landscape (Viewpoint 4 (**Figure 6-21**)). As recorded in the AIA (**Appendix 8D**), the Proposed Development would result in the loss of 128 individual trees and 0.017ha in relation to tree groups. Although these trees are not cited as one of the Primary Landscape Qualities and Features of this landscape, the conservation and enhancement of the existing field patterns (which are defined by the trees) are recorded as one of the long-term policy, management and development control issues of the VILL. Whilst compensatory tree planting would be provided at a ratio which exceeds PPW 12 requirements (see **Table 6.9** and the Illustrative Compensatory Planting Strategy (**Appendix 8E)** so as to optimise long-term landscape and ecological benefit, the removal would still lead to the localised disruption of the established field pattern which is present across Cefn Rhyswg. The alteration to a proportion of the Primary Landscape Qualities and Features for which the landscape has been designated, specifically those relating to views, as a consequence of the introduction of additional large scale man-made features, as well as the disruption to the field patterns from localised tree removals, would give rise to a High magnitude of change across the Site and a Medium magnitude of change from elsewhere within the VILL which coincides with the ZTV, reducing to Zero across areas outside ZTV coverage. The level of effect would therefore range from **Major/Moderate** to **Moderate** and **Significant** to None.
Visual Receptors: Settlements				

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
Abercarn (Llanfach, Persondy, Celynen, High Meadow, West End)	High	High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	The settlement occupies the lower slopes and base of the Ebbw Valley, to the west and northwest of the Site. ZTV coverage (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**) indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development at the northern part of the settlement, most notably at High Meadow, Celynen, Persondy, Llanfach and West End at a minimum distance of 0.6km. Visibility towards the Proposed Development would often be restricted by the orientation of dwellings and/or through intervening screening by other residences or rising topography to the northeast. However, for north facing properties in Llanfach and on the western side of the Ebbw Valley, including the western part of High Meadow and the northern part of West End, a number of dwellings are orientated to the northeast towards the Proposed Development. Where visibility in these areas is not restricted by intervening built form, up to two hubs and a blade would be visible beyond the wooded slopes of Craig Glan-sion and Twyn-y-ganol.
Cwmcarn and Pontywaun	High	High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	These settlements occupy part of the lower slopes and the base of the Ebbw Valley and Carn Valley. ZTV coverage indicates that there would be limited theoretical visibility of one turbine across Pontywaun increasing to all three turbines across the southern and central areas of Cwmcarn, at a minimum distance of 0.8km. Visibility towards the Proposed Development from properties in Pontywaun would often be restricted by the orientation of dwellings and/or through intervening screening by other residences, rising topography or partial screening from the wooded slopes of Medart. Theoretical visibility of a single turbine would be available from a limited distribution of properties with a northern orientation where a tower, hub and blades would be visible. In Cwmcarn, the orientation of properties varies and consequently there would be some views towards the Proposed Development between and above buildings from the south and west of the settlement, where up to three hubs with one tower and two upper towers would be visible.
Pantside	High	Medium-Low to Zero	Moderate and Significant to None	Pantside occupies part of the lower and middle slopes of the Nant Gawni valley as it departs to the east of the Ebbw Valley, northwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**), there would be theoretical visibility from the most elevated area to the northeast of the settlement. The closest area of ZTV coverage is indicated at a minimum distance of 3km. The majority of properties within the northeastern part of the settlement have a primary orientation to the south or southeast along and across the Gawni valley, with some of the centrally located properties oriented to the northeast

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				or southwest. The Proposed Development would be located to the southeast. Visibility towards the Site would also be restricted by intervening screening by other residences and intervening topography (Twyn-y-ganol) to the south-southeast. Visibility would increase slightly with elevation towards the northeastern edge of the settlement where wireline analysis indicates up to two hubs and a blade would be theoretically visible in views from properties at the north-eastern edge of the settlement.
Newbridge/Trecelyn (Treowen, Old Treowen, Cwm Dows) and Pentwyn-mawr	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None.	The settlement occupies the flanking eastern and western slopes as well as the base of the Ebbw Valley and continues along the lower northern slopes of the Dows Valley (Cwm Dows), to the northwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**), the western parts of the settlement are illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, most notably on the facing valley sides at Treowen, and along the Dows Valley towards Pentwyn-mawr. The residential area to the south of Newbridge forms is the closest area of theoretical visibility at 2.8km to the northwest of the Proposed Development. Along the Dows Valley, the majority of properties are oriented south and southeast across the valley and towards the Ebbw Valley. Views towards the proposed turbines would be from southeast oriented properties and in eastbound travel along residential roads where the proposed turbines would be visible between and above buildings and in glimpsed and channelled views along the Ebbw Valley (subject to intervening vegetation). From the elevated facing slopes of the Ebbw Valley and at Treowen; less obstructed visibility of the Proposed Development would be achieved. Where visibility in these areas is not restricted by intervening built form, wireline analysis indicates that up to three hubs and upper towers would be visible along the ridgeline at Cefn Rhyswg forming a new feature of southeast views.
Crosskeys	High	Medium-Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None	Crosskeys occupies part of the lower slopes and the base of the Ebbw Valley as it enters the Sirhowy Valley, southwest of the Site and flanks the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. The closest area of ZTV coverage is at a minimum distance of 2.6km. Theoretical visibility of one hub and upper tower is illustrated from the Newtown area on the western edges of the settlement, with visibility reducing to a partial blade and blade tip further east in the settlement as visibility to the north along the Ebbw Valley becomes more limited. The orientation of the terraced properties in this area varies greatly. Consequently, the visibility of the turbine would frequently change along different streets as a result of this variance in orientation and the

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				degree of screening provided by other built form. The Proposed Development is anticipated to comprise a noticeable change to a small part of the channelled views through the Ebbw Valley, to the north, which is often screened by intervening built form or mature vegetation.
Llanhilleth and Brynithel	High	High-Medium to Zero.	Major to Major/Moderate and Significant to None	These settlements occupy the valley floor and northern flanking slopes of the Ebbw Valley, to the northwest of the Site. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**), visibility of the Proposed Development is demonstrated across the more elevated parts of Brynithel, and the elevated eastern and northern areas of Llanhilleth at a distance of 5.9km at the closest point. The majority of properties in the eastern part of Llanhilleth lie on the eastern flanking hills of the Ebbw Valley and therefore have a primary orientation to the southwest; with the Proposed Development located to the southeast. Visibility towards the Site would also be restricted by intervening screening from other residences or mature vegetation to the south. The terraced properties within the northern part of Llanhilleth and Brynithel are located higher up the valley sides and have a primary orientation to the south and southeast, towards the Proposed Development. The terraced nature of these properties, on the sloping terrain, reduces the opportunity for screening by nearby built form resulting in up to three hubs, upper towers and blades being visible to residential receptors in these areas.
Pen-twyn and Trinant	HIgh	Medium to Zero	Major/ Moderate and Significant to None	The two communities of Trinant and Pent-wyn are located alongside one another, west of the Ebbw Valley and northwest of the Proposed Development. With reference to the ZTVs (**Figures 6-2 to 6-6**) both settlements are illustrated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, at a distance of 5.6km at the closest point. The density of both communities is relatively high while the predominant orientation of properties is on an east-to-west alignment. The Proposed Development would be located to the southeast, with this boundary of both settlements reasonably well-wooded and the land to the eastern periphery also populated by various areas of mature vegetation. It is also noted that there playing fields/ open spaces on the eastern boundary of both settlements; north of Cedar Road in Trinant and north of Llanerch Lane in Pent-wyn. Both of these spaces are enclosed to a degree by mature woodland. Partial visibility of the Proposed Development could be attained from a portion of the roads within Trinant, which lie on a northwest-southeast orientation. The magnitude of change would be Medium for properties on

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				the eastern margins of both settlements reducing to a Very Low magnitude of change which is Not Significant from the remainder of both communities.
Caerphilly (Blackwood/ Pontllanfraith)	High	Medium to Zero	Major/ Moderate and Significant to None	The communities of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith form a large, settled area west of the Proposed Development, encompassing a number of smaller residential areas including The Bryn, Gelligroes, flanking the course of the Sirhowy River. Theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is demonstrated across a large proportion of both settlements, at a minimum distance of 4.3km at the closest point. From the western part of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith, the density of built form is expected to reduce opportunities for visibility of the proposed turbines. In addition to the dwellings, the eastern edge of both communities is defined by a series of larger industrial and retail units including at Newbridge Road Industrial Estate, Penmaen Industrial Estate, Blackwood Gate Retail Park and Blackwood High Street. Intervisibility with the Proposed Development would also be reduced by the screening influence of mature vegetation following the course of the Sirhowy River. Unobstructed visibility of the proposed turbines would be achieved in certain areas on the open edges of settled areas, including from Blackwood Show Fields/ Cefn Forest, on Greenwood Road in Blackwood (Viewpoint 11), where visibility of three hubs and three blade tips is available. The magnitude of change would be Medium for properties on the margins of the settled area reducing to a Very Low magnitude of change which is Not Significant from the remainder of the settled area.
Visual Receptors: recreational routes				
NCN Route 465	High	Medium-Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant to None	NCN Route 465 forms two routes within 10km of the Proposed Development. The southern route follows the Ebbw Valley along a section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal at Crosskeys between Darran Road and Pontywaun at a distance of 1.9km at its closest point. The northern route follows the Ebbw Fach Valley from Llanhilleth, in the south, to Bryn Mawr, in the north at a minimum separation distance of ~3.6km to the northwest of the Proposed Development. Views from the southern section of the route are indicated for ~ 0.7km of the route at Pontywaun and would be experienced by northbound cyclists. Although views would be partially screened by built form and vegetation along the route, wirelines indicate that there would be some (filtered) channelled views towards the Proposed Development which would be visible as up to two turbines including hubs and upper towers, predominantly during the winter months. There would be

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				no views of the Proposed Development available to southbound cyclists using the section of NCN 465 to the north of the proposed turbines.
Cambrian Way	High	High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	The Cambrian Way comprises an elevated coast to coast walking route through Wales and crosses the LVIA Study Area within 1.5km of the Proposed Development on a broadly north-south alignment. The magnitude of change would be highest from the section of the Cambrian Way which crosses Twmbarlwm and along Mynydd Henllys to Pwll Tra (High magnitude of change) and from the summit of Mynydd Machen (Medium magnitude). Elsewhere along the route, the magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero due to separation distance or the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment.
Celtic Way	High	High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	The Celtic Way visits prehistoric sites through South Wales and the South West peninsula and follows public rights of way and minor roads across the hills surrounding the Rhymney Valley. The greatest magnitude of change would occur as the route circles around the base of the Iron Age Fort at Twmbarlwm from which there would be some open views from elevated areas where the proposed turbines would be visible at a minimum distance of 1.6km to the north and northwest for up to 350m of the route (High magnitude). Up to a Medium magnitude of change would also occur as the Celtic Way traverses the north facing slopes between Upper Ochrwyth and Danygraig, where the Proposed Development would be visible from short, open sections of the promoted route, at a distance of ~5.4km. Elsewhere along the Celtic Way, screening provided by woodland, forestry and other intervening vegetation and/or buildings, would limit views giving rise to a Very Low or Zero magnitude of change (Not Significant).
Cistercian Way	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The Cistercian Way (Wales) forms a circular pilgrimage trail throughout Wales and crosses within 10km of the Proposed Development between Rudry (~9.4km) to the southwest and Caerleon, ~10.0km southeast of the Site. The magnitude of change would range from Medium, across the two localised sections of the route where unobstructed visibility is available, to Very Low or Zero for the majority of the Cistercian Way due to the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment. A Medium magnitude of change is predicted to occur as the route crosses the Sirhowy Valley ridgeline where there would be open views from the top of the ridgeline and from a short section of the route (0.7km) at Mynydd Henllys where up to two hubs would be theoretically visible in views northwest at ~1.7km distance. The hubs would be screened by intervening

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				forest such that the blades would be visible as new, rotating elements in the view.
Ebbw Valley Walk	High	High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	The Ebbw Valley Walk follows the Ebbw Valley connecting the Sirhowy Valley Country Park, ~3.9km to the southwest of the Proposed Development, with Festival Park, ~13km to the northwest near Waun-Lwyd. The highest magnitude of change would occur as the route passes to the northwest of Abercarn, at the route's closest point to the Proposed Development, from which the Proposed Development would be visible fleetingly as the route crosses Pant-Y-Resk Road before crossing a short section (~175m) of recently felled coniferous forestry near Rock of Ages, allowing open views across the Ebbw Valley. From this short section of the promoted route, the Proposed Development would form a prominent new vertical feature of easterly views from this location at a distance of 1.9km. To the east of Trinant, unobstructed south-easterly views of the Proposed Development would also be available across the section of the route as it rounds Coed Trinant. For the remainder of the Ebbw Valley Walk, screening provided by woodland, forestry and other intervening vegetation and/or buildings, would limit views giving rise to a Very Low or Zero magnitude of change (Not Significant).
Raven Walk	High	High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	The Raven Walk comprises a circular walk above the Sirhowy and Ebbw valleys to the south of Abercarn. Much of the western half of this route between Mynydd Machen and the Mynyddislwyn SLA overlaps the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge with a High magnitude of change occurring as the Raven Walk crosses the open moorland at Mynyddislwyn. A High magnitude of change would also be experienced by walkers heading east from Cwmcarn, where there would be intermittent visibility of all three turbines and upper hubs which would form prominent new features in the view at ~1.2km distance. Similarly for westbound walkers on the footpath, there would be views of all three turbines between west of Twmbarlwm and the middle to lower slopes of Cwm Carn at distances between 1.2km and 1.9km. A Medium magnitude of change would occur as the Raven Walk crosses Mynydd Machen. Elsewhere and for the majority of the route, the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment would restrict views towards the Proposed Development.
Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk is a circular 44.4km route that follows public rights of way and minor roads across the hills surrounding the Rhymney Valley. The western part of the route lies within 10km of the

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				Proposed Development arcing between Caerphilly to the southeast and Nelson to the northwest. A Medium magnitude of change is predicted to occur from along the route as it passes between the summit of Mynydd Machen and Twyn Gwyn, with walkers travelling along an ~2.3km section of the route experiencing framed north-easterly views through the Ebbw Valley towards the Proposed Development. A Medium magnitude of change would also occur as the route crosses the southern side of the Sirhowy Valley, with a consistent area of ZTV coverage covering a 4.9km section of the route between Pen-heol-machen and southeast of Maesycwmmer, at a minimum distance of ~6.1km to the southwest of the Proposed Development. From other sections of route which coincide with the ZTV, views would be limited by the intervening screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment.
Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk connects the edge of Newport in the south with Tredegar to the north. The highest magnitude of change would occur as the route passes between Lower Ochrwyth and Pen-heol-machen (~5km section of the route) from where up to three turbines would theoretically be visible at a minimum distance of 4.3km. Whilst views would be intermittently screened by intervening trees and hedgerows, open views would be experienced near Mynydd Machen where the Proposed Development would be visible to the north. From other sections of the Sirhowy Valley Ridgeway Walk which coincide with the ZTV, views would be restricted by the intervening built urban environment and/or vegetation.
Taith Torfaen Anything Challenge	High	High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	The Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge (82km) is separated into two sections, a northern and southern loop, both starting and finishing at the Pontypool Active Living Centre in Torfaen. With regard to the southern circuit of the route, a Medium magnitude of change would occur as the route crosses Mynydd Maen, increasing to a High magnitude of change as users cross the open hills at Twmbarlwm, from which the proposed turbines would appear as prominent visual elements. A Medium magnitude of change would again occur as the route crosses the middle and upper slopes of Mynydd Machen, with a High magnitude of change being experienced as walkers cross the open moorland at Mynyddislwyn and an intermittent High magnitude of change occurring from the north flanking slopes of Cwm Gwyddon. From elsewhere across the southern circuit of the route and from the northern circuit of the Taith Torfaen Anytime Challenge, the magnitude of change

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				would range from Low, through to Very Low or Zero due to the screening influence of landform, vegetation and the built environment.
Visual Receptors: recreational destinations				
Maes Manor Hotel (Historic Park and Garden)	High	Medium-Low to Zero	Major/Moderate to Moderate and Significant	Maes Manor Hotel is located to the on the western flank of the Sirhowy Valley to the north of Blackwood. The Hotel is situated at an elevated location on the middle to upper slopes of the valley and oriented to the south-southeast with the primary view along the Sirhowy Valley and the A4048 Chartist Bridge. Maes Manor Hotel is located approximately 6.8km to the northwest of the Proposed Development at its closest point. Whilst visibility towards the Proposed Development from the main hotel buildings and formal garden area would be predominantly screened by mature woodland which flanks the garden and hotel buildings to the east and southeast, potential open views towards the Proposed Development would be available from the wider grounds to the southeast, beyond the mature trees.
Sirhowy Valley Country Park	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The Sirhowy Valley Country Park is located on the southern and western slopes flanking the Sirhowy River Valley between Crosskeys and Wyllie at a minimum distance of ~3.6km (at Crosskeys) from the Proposed Development. Areas which coincide with the ZTV are indicated on the upper slopes at the western and southwestern fringes of the park (although deciduous woodland areas west of Tyle Crwth and Twyn yr Oerfel would filter views), with more extensive theoretical visibility indicated across southeastern areas within the park between Black Vein and Brynawel.
Open Access Land and PRoW within 5km of proposed turbines	High	Very High to Zero	Major and Significant to None	High points from where the Proposed Development would be most prominent include open access land and PRoW network across the elevated ridgeline at Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Henllys to the south of the Site, as well as to the open plateau of Mynydd y Lan to the west, with unrestricted views also being available from Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd to the east of the Site, and with increasing separation distance, to the north at Cefn y Crib. The distribution of local PRoW within 5km of the proposed turbines is shown in **Figure 6-15b** and extends in all directions around the Site with a number of PRoW also crossing through the Site, where the magnitude of change would be Very High.
Open Access Land and PRoW between 5km-10km of the proposed turbines	High	Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	**Figure 6.15b** indicates that whilst an extensive network of local PRoWs crosses the landscape at distances of between 5km and 10km of the proposed turbines, areas designated as open access land, are limited. Those that are present within 5-10km of the proposed turbines and coincide

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				with the ZTV occur at Mynydd y Grug and Mynydd Rudry to the southwest of the Site, the southern tip of Galligaer Common to the northwest of the Site and an extensive area of open access land which covers Mynydd Llanhilleth to the north of the Site. For users of the local PRoW routes and open access land which coincide with the ZTV and where there is an absence of foreground vegetation or built form, the proposed turbines would become prominent visual elements as evidenced at Viewpoint 7 (**Figure 6-24**), which is located on a PRoW and open access land close to Mynydd y Grug and Viewpoint 10 (**Figure 6-27**) from a local PRoW to the east of St. Illtyd.
Visual Receptors: transport routes				
A467	Medium	Medium	Moderate and Significant to None	Within 10km of the Proposed Development, the A467 passes on a broadly north-to-south alignment, following the Ebbw Valley through south Wales and passing within approximately 1.4km of the Proposed Development at the closest point, on the northern edge of Abercarn. The highest magnitudes of change would occur for northbound receptors as they travel along an approximately 400m of the route as it crosses the Ebbw River to the south of Crosskeys and for those travelling in the southbound direction as the A467 approaches the roundabout to the north of Abercarn at High Meadow. From the majority of the A467, the Proposed Development would be screened by roadside vegetation and the built environment.
B4591	Medium	High-Medium to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant to None	The B4591 follows the Sirhowy Valley from Newport, turning north at Crosskeys to flank the eastern side of the A467 through the Ebbw Valley to Abercarn. From the majority of the route there would be no views of the Proposed Development, with intermittent open views of one turbine (hub, tower and blades) occurring from a short (approximately 300m) of the B4591 as the route crosses the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal at Pontywaun and passes recreational space at a distance of ~2.1km from the Proposed Development. At Cwmcarn, there would be occasional fleeting glimpsed views of up to two turbines in oblique southbound views, particularly as it passes Ivor Street, giving rise to a Medium magnitude of change.
A472	Medium	High to Zero	Major/Moderate and Significant	The A472 travels on a west-east axis between Usk in the west and Abercynon in the east. Reference to the ZTVs in **Figures 6-2 to 6-6** indicates that within 10km of the Proposed Development, theoretical visibility of up to three turbines would occur along four sections of the highway to the west of Newbridge. Along these sections, the magnitude of change would vary from Low to Zero as a consequence of the screening provided by

Receptor	Sensitivity[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Summary rationale
				mature roadside vegetation, urban built environment or roadside cutting. As the route crosses the viaduct immediately west of the Celynen Roundabout, the proposed turbines would be visible at a separation distance of approximately 2.5km, from an approximately 300m section of the route, where they would present new, rotating vertical elements to the view

1. The sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor is defined using the criteria set out in **Section 6.8** 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 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**.

6.16 Further work to be undertaken

6.16.1. The information provided in this Draft ES is preliminary, the final assessment of likely significant effects will be reported in the Final ES. This section describes the further work to be undertaken to support the LVIA presented in the Final ES.

Baseline

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

- Viewpoint photography for Viewpoint 14: Wellfield Close, west of Coed-y-paen.
- Night-time viewpoint photography to inform **Appendix 6M: Night-time assessment** of the Final ES. This will be undertaken in accordance with the Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment[24] and the preliminary viewpoints for night-time photography[45] are as follows:
    - Viewpoint 2: Twmbarlwm Iron Age Fort summit;
    - Viewpoint 5: Open space on Fflorens Road, Treowen; and
    - Viewpoint 23: The Blorenge, BBNP.

Assessment

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

- An assessment of the indirect effects of the HLAAs which have been scoped into the LVIA;
- An assessment of the indirect effects on the local landscape designations that have been scoped into the LVIA;
- The RVAA which will be reported in **Appendix 6L** of the Final ES; and
- The Night-time assessment which will form **Appendix 6M** of the Final ES**.**

Environmental measures

6.16.4. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will form part of the Final ES.

[45] Selected in accordance with paragraph 67 of the Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment[24] which states *"…..in most instances it is expected two or three representative viewpoints accompanied by photomontage visualisations will adequately represent the key impacts and enable detailed assessment at these locations. Edge of settlement locations (and locations away from settlements altogether) are likely to be better lighting assessment viewpoints, compared with locations within towns/ villages (i.e. given the influence of existing street lighting, etc.)*".