6. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter sets out the assessment of the potential significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. The assessment is based on information obtained to date. It should be read in conjunction with the Project description provided in **Chapter 4: Description of the Project**.

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 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) have been addressed (**Section 6.3**);
- the methods used for baseline data gathering (**Section 6.4**);
- a high level description of the baseline (**Section 6.5**);
- embedded measures relevant to landscape and visual amenity (**Section 6.6**);
- the scope of the assessment for landscape and visual amenity (**Section 6.7**);
- the methods used for the assessment (**Section 6.8**);
- the assessment of effects: LANDMAP Aspect Areas (**Section 6.9**);
- the assessment of effects: National Designations (**Section 6.10**);
- the assessment of effects: Local Designations (**Section 6.11**);
- the assessment of visual effects (**Section 6.12**);
- assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects (**Section 6.13**); and
- a summary of the significance conclusions (**Section 6.14**).

6.1.3 A number of appendices accompany this LVIA as follows:

- **Appendix 6A; LVIA Methodology**
- **Appendix 6B; LVIA Baseline**
- **Appendix 6C; LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas Assessment of Effects**
- **Appendix 6D; LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas Assessment of Effects**
- **Appendix 6E; LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Areas Assessment of Effects**
- **Appendix 6F; LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Areas Assessment of Effects**
- **Appendix 6G; LANDMAP Geological Areas Assessment of Effects**
- **Appendix 6H; BBNP, Wye Valley AONB and WHS Assessment of Effects**
- **Appendix 6I; Photoviewpoint Schedule of Effects**
- **Appendix 6J; Schedule of Effects on Settlements**
- **Appendix 6K; Schedule of Night-time Visual Effects**

- **Appendix 6L; Schedule of Effects on Promoted Routes and NCN**
- **Appendix 6M; Residential Visual Amenity Assessment**

6.1.4 These appendices contain detailed methodologies and/or individual assessments of the specific elements undertaken as part of the LVIA that have then been summarised and included within the main text in order to reduce the volume of the main text while allowing further information on how assessments have been made should they be required. They are the primary source of the assessment and should be read in conjunction with their accompanying figures as appropriate.

6.1.5 The following figures accompanying this LVIA are included at **Appendix 6B** and these include:

- **Figure 6.1** Site Location and Study areas
- **Figure 6.2** Topographical Plan
- **Figure 6.3** Landscape Related Planning Considerations within 26km
- **Figure 6.4** Landscape Related Planning Considerations within 5km
- **Figure 6.5** Baseline Light Pollution
- **Figure 6.6** ZTV The Site in its current form
- **Figure 6.7** ZTV blade tip height (26km study area)
- **Figure 6.8** ZTV hub height (26km study area)
- **Figure 6.9** ZTV blade tip height (15km detailed study area)
- **Figure 6.10** ZTV hub height (15km detailed study area)
- **Figure 6.11** LVIA Photoviewpoint Locations
- **Figure 6.12** LVIA Photoviewpoints (Existing view & wirelines, photomontages & night views)
- **Figure 6.13** RVAA Photoviewpoint Locations
- **Figure 6.14** RVAA Photoviewpoints (Existing view & wirelines)
- **Figure 6.15** Special Landscape Areas and Visually Important Local Landscapes
- **Figure 6.16** BBNP, AONB and WHS Landscape Character
- **Figure 6.17** Site Character
- **Figure 6.18** Promoted Routes and Cycle Ways within 26km Study Area
- **Figure 6.19** Public Rights of Way and Open Access Land within 15km
- **Figure 6.20** Residential Groups within Blade Tip ZTV (2-15km)
- **Figure 6.21** ZTV Hub Height (2km study area)
- **Figure 6.22** Residential Groups within the Visual Amenity Study Area (2km)
- **Figure 6.23** Level 3 Classifications of LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas
- **Figure 6.24** Overall Evaluation of LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas
- **Figure 6.25** Level 3 Classifications of LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area
- **Figure 6.26** Overall Evaluation of LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas

- **Figure 6.27** Level 3 Classifications of LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas
- **Figure 6.28** Level 3 Classifications of LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas
- **Figure 6.29** Overall Evaluation of LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas
- **Figure 6.30** Level 3 Classifications of LANDMAP Geological Aspect Areas
- **Figure 6.31** Overall Evaluation of LANDMAP Geological Aspect Areas
- **Figure 6.32** CLVIA Windfarms
- **Figure 6.33** Cumulative ZTV - Scenario A – The Proposed Development with Operational and Consented Schemes.
- **Figure 6.34** Cumulative ZTV – Scenario B - The Proposed Development with Operational and Consented Schemes + Schemes in Planning and in Scoping
- **Figure 6.35** Cumulative Wireframes

Limitations and assumptions

6.1.6 The draft environmental statement (ES) has been produced to fulfil the Applicant's consultation duties and enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Project.

6.1.7 There are no limitations relating to LVIA that affect the robustness of the assessment of the potential likely significant effects of the Project.

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 LVIA. Further information on policies relevant to the Project 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 (PPW) Edition 11[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

[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 April 2022)
[2] Welsh Government. (2021). Planning Policy Wales, Edition 11. (Online). Available at: https://gov.wales/Sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf (Accessed April 2022)

Legislation	Legislative context
	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), including the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) which lies within the LVIA Study Area. 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.

Planning policy

6.2.3 A description of the relevant national and local planning policy is set out at **Appendix 6B** and these policies are summarised in **Table 6.2**.

Table 6.2 Planning policy relevant to the LVIA

Policy	Policy context
National planning policy	
Planning Policy Wales, Edition 11	Sets out the planning policy framework for Wales with the overall objective to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development. For landscape this chiefly involves principles of maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact to the landscape as a resource and resilience to climate change.
Future Wales - The National Plan 2040	**Policy 17** – 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure'' pertains to meeting Wales' international commitments and target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030. **Policy 18** - 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance' sets out 10 criteria that Developments of National Significance (DNS) qualifying projects to follow. Two are most relevant to landscape; Criteria 1 states that outside of pre-assessed areas, DNS schemes must not have unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape, and in particular the National Park and AONB. Criteria 2 requires DNS projects to limit unacceptable adverse effects on individual dwellings and/ or nearby communities through design.
Local planning policy	
Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan (to 2021)	**Policy S7** – 'Conservation of the Natural and Historic Environment' requires proposals to consider landscape setting as part of the natural and historic environment. **Policy C2** – 'Special Landscape Areas' sets out the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) within the County Borough and there are SLAs within the Site boundary and study area. The policy requires high standards of design and environmental protection to ensure protection and enhancement of SLAs.

[3] National Assembly for Wales. (2016). Environment (Wales) Act 2016. (Online). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted (Accessed April 2022).
[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 April 2022).

Policy	Policy context
	Policy HE2 – 'Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (BILWHS)'. Development proposals in proximity to BILWHS must consider the character and landscape setting of the heritage asset.
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Local Development Plan up to 2021	**Policy SP10 – '**Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment' requires development proposals to consider designated landscapes and design should contribute to character and quality as well as amenity. **Policy DM1** – 'New Development' states that development proposals will be permitted where they do not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on landscape character. **Policy DM4** – 'Low and Zero Carbon Energy' states that large scale renewable energy proposals are encouraged provided there is not an unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character. **Policy DM15 –** 'Protection and Enhancement of Green Infrastructure' (GI) requires development to maintain connectivity of strategic GI at a county level. **Policy DM16 –** 'Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerow Protection' this policy requires that development proposals should not result in unacceptable harm to trees woodland and hedgerows. **Policy ENV2** – 'Special Landscape Areas' sets out the SLAs within the County Borough and there are SLAs within the Site boundary. The policy requires high standards of design and environmental protection to ensure protection and enhancement of SLAs.

Technical guidance

6.2.4 A summary of the technical guidance for the LVIA is given in **Table 6.3**.

Table 6.3 Technical guidance relevant to the LVIA assessment

Technical guidance document	Context
Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition)[5]	The third edition of the Guidelines for LVIA has been jointly produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA), as co-authors. It provides the industry standard guidance on the use of LVIA as a "*tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.*" It emphasises the need for proportionality within assessments and the need to focus on "*likely significant effects*". Part 2 of this guidance sets out the "*fundamental principles and provides guidance on methods, procedures and technical issues*" involved in assessment and providing judgements in undertaking LVIA.
Visual Representation of Windfarms (Version 2.2)	The Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Visual Representation of Wind Farms provides the requirements by which "A*ll wind farm applications requiring a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment should conform with.*" It notes within section 11 that "*It is essential that a wind farm proposal is assessed within its wider landscape and visual context.*" It recognises that "*For those who visit the viewpoints described, the context will be visible in the field. However, many people … may not be able to visit all of the viewpoints for themselves. It is therefore essential that visualisations which demonstrate the wider landscape and visual context are provided to all audiences… The combination of images in this guidance seeks to achieve this.*"

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

Technical guidance document	Context
Visual Representation of Development Proposals TGN 06/19	The Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 outlines the "*the selection, production and presentation of types of visualisation appropriate to the circumstances in which they will be used*" consistent with principles set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd edition (GLVIA3). It similarly emphasises a proportionate approach to the scale and type of development proposed and details the methodology to be used in processing and presenting the visual aids.
Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (TGN46)[6]	This web-based guidance provides background to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) LANDMAP data and advises on its use within LVIA. It outlines the five related datasets compiled and sets out the filtering processes to be used with each in identifying and assessing potential landscape and visual effects that may arise from a Proposed Development in order to help focus detailed assessment of potentially sensitive landscape and visual receptors on the aspect areas most likely to be affected.
Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments	The NatureScot Guidance – Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments (2021) outlines the approach to the assessment of cumulative effects on landscape and visual receptors from wind farm developments. It defines the purpose of a Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) to describe, visually represent and assess the ways in which a proposed wind farm would have additional impacts when considered with other consented or proposed wind farms, and notes that CLVIAs should focus on the "*significant cumulative changes likely to be brought about by the new proposal, i.e. on key routes, views or character areas.*"

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 preparing the Environmental Statement**.

Scoping Opinion

6.3.2 A Scoping Direction was issued by the Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales (PEDW, formerly Planning Inspectorate Wales) on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, on 6 August 2021. A summary of the relevant responses received in the Scoping Opinion in relation to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and confirmation of how these have been addressed within the assessment is presented in **Table 6.4**.

Table 6.4 Summary of EIA Scoping Direction responses for the LVIA

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
PEDW **ID.26**	Landscape and Visual Impact: Levels of Effect Matrix Overly mechanistic reliance on a matrix such as that presented in Table 7-9 is to be avoided, in line with the advice from Scottish Natural Heritage quoted in para 7.5.25 of the SR.	**Appendix 6A** sets out the general methodology for the assessment and sets out scenarios in which professional judgement may be employed. When additional factors may arise, a further degree of professional judgement may be applied to determine the level of significance. For example, in cases where

[6] Natural Resources Wales, (2022). Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46. (Online). Available at: https://naturalresources.wales/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 October 2022].

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	Even low magnitude effects on high sensitivity receptors can be significant. The applicant's attention is drawn to NRW comments in this regard. The application of professional judgement in the preparation of the ES is an appropriate approach and should be clearly explained.	a moderate/minor effect is experienced by a high or very high sensitivity receptor, this may be considered to be significant. Where this occurs, further explanation will be clearly explained.
PEDW **ID.27**	Proposed Viewpoints The applicant should ensure that the detailed comments from consultees are addressed with modifications/additions to the viewpoints where requested.	The amended and additional viewpoints provided by consultees have been included in the Photoviewpoint (PVP) Schedule in **Table 6.8.**
PEDW **ID.28**	LANDMAP: Proposed Scope and Method of Assessment The applicant should ensure that the ES is prepared in accordance with the advice from NRW that "that all outstanding and high evaluated visual and sensory/historic landscape aspect areas (HLAA) within the 26km study area and moderate evaluated aspect areas with outstanding or high evaluated scenic quality/character should be assessed, as detailed in GN46."	The scope of the study has been revised to accord with GN46.
PEDW **ID.29**	Cumulative LVIA See section 6 of this Scoping Direction. The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments from TCBC. The following DNS cases should be addressed: • 3278009 – Abertillery Wind Farm • 3270299 – Mynydd Carn y Cefn Wind Farm • 3253147 - Pen March Wind Farm • 3239181 – Manmoel Wind Farm The applicant should monitor the DNS Portal and continue to liaise with stakeholders to further inform the list of potential projects that should be addressed as the ES is prepared.	The DNS portal has been monitored to inform the CLVIA. The cut off point for monitoring the DNS portal was September 2022.
PEDW **ID.30**	Approach to mitigation The Inspectorate welcomes the approach indicated in the SR. The iterative approach to design of the scheme should be addressed in the 'reasonable alternatives' section of the ES.	The scheme was reduced from 11 to 8 proposed turbines. Existing tracks are also proposed to be used for access where possible to limit loss of habitat. Any loss will be compensated for elsewhere on site.
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	Following additional viewpoints requested: • Residential receptor Abersychan/Talywain urban area; • Coety Mountain ridge/Mynydd Farteg Fawr on footpath 414/16/1 and summit (grid ref: 324576, 207262)	These additional viewpoints have been included within the LVIA and the PVP Schedule in **Table 6.8** lists the corresponding views as **PVPs 2, 4, 7, 9** and **15**.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	• Llanerch Memorial (grid ref: 325207, 202379); • Car Park Big Arch, Talywain (grid ref: 325951, 203536); and • Tirpentwys cut (grid ref: 323987, 201104)	
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	Specific viewpoints for photomontages to include, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Car Park Big Arch Talywain and Llanerch Memorial.	All viewpoints suggested for photomontages by TCBC have been included within the LVIA. PBP Schedule in **Table 6.8** lists names and numbers. Some PVPs been renumbered since scoping to accord with the distancing order used in the PVP assessment.
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	Preferred views for night-time assessment: BBNP, Blorenge Common Viewpoint 16 plus 2-3 within 5km range.	4 no. night views have been included in the night- time assessment; three from within 5km and one from the Blorenge (**PVP 22**) as requested.
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	Due consideration should be given to the impact of the grid connection which is proposed to run.	Noted and due consideration is given in this chapter. The LANDMAP assessment (Appendices **6C - 6G**) assess the effects on host landscape areas which includes the grid connection.
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	The potential cumulative impact on Tirpentwys cut should also be investigated.	This view has been included as requested (**PVP 2**) based on the coordinates given. It appears to be a private view without public access. A wireframe and photomontage have been prepared at **Figure 6.12**.
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	Any permanent changes to the landscape e.g. road realignments to enable construction should be included in any visual impact assessment.	Noted. The permanent changes to the landscape which also result in a change to a view are addressed in this Chapter.
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)	The robustness of the LVIA will need to demonstrate clearly the expected landscape and visual impact of the proposal and in my reading of the scoping exercise there is to be an over dependency or reliance of the visual assessments on wire frame drawings	Both the effects on landscape character and visual amenity are assessed separately in this Chapter. Wireframes are a useful visual aid for the assessor therefore they have been included and the visual assessment follows best practice.
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)	For clarity there must be a good range of accurate photomontages from agreed viewpoint locations.	Photomontages have been prepared from all of the viewpoint locations requested in the scoping opinion.
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)	Please also note the upland area of the South East Wales Valleys are currently suffering from landscape degradation due to illegal motorised access. This development proposal will have a significant impact in altering the accessibility of the uplands area which could exacerbate the existing problems being experienced, consequently it will be important that this issue is considered and mitigated for in this impact assessment.	The Site is currently accessible via public roads in its baseline state, therefore it would be difficult to mitigate this issue. The development proposals presented seek to use existing roads for access rather than create new roads where possible. However, the proposals are unlikely to result in an increase of landscape degradation as a result of the proposals assessed.
Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)	We note that viewpoints are subject to review following finalisation of turbine layout. Therefore we reserve our consideration of the appropriateness of the viewpoints once further detail has been provided on these. It is noted that 10 viewpoints are identified in total, with viewpoints (10, 16 and 18) within the National Park boundary. An additional viewpoint from Mynydd Llangynidr/Mynydd Llangatwg (within the National Park boundary) is requested however. It	Noted. The proposals were reduced from 11 to 8 turbines, therefore the viewpoint selection submitted as part of the SR are considered to be appropriate. Additional viewpoints requested have been included and winter views have been included. The PVP Schedule in **Table 6.8** lists PVP names and numbers. Some PVPs have been renumbered since scoping to accord with the distancing order used in the PVP assessment.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	is assumed winter views will be provided of these viewpoints.	
Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)	We note that a night-time assessment and consideration of the glint and glare is proposed to be undertaken which is welcomed. Para 7.4.2 states that a night-time view from the National Park is proposed but no defined viewpoint is set out at this point. We would be happy to provide a perspective on which viewpoint would be appropriate once we have had the opportunity of seeing the day-time viewpoints.	PVP 22 from The Blorenge (BBNP) was selected for inclusion in the night-time assessment as requested by TCBC's response. PVP Schedule in **Table 6.8** lists PVP names and numbers.
Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)	The Planning Policy section of the Environmental Statement (ES should draw upon the Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2015 – 2020. This is the document which sets out the Special Qualities of the National Park. Planning Policy Wales (PPW requires that the special qualities of designated areas are given weight in the development planning and development management process.	Noted, the special qualities of the National Park have been considered in this assessment.
Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)	Photomontages are requested for all viewpoints from the National Park.	Photomontages have been prepared for all viewpoints taken from the National Park.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	The report notes that Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd edition (GLVIA3 would be used for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Cumulative Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA), along with SNH Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Farm Developments. A night-time assessment of the effects of the pilot lights is also proposed. We agree that this should be scoped in, however, we would advise that details of the method for assessing the night-time assessment be required.	**Appendix 6B** sets out the night-time method of assessment. GLVIA3 and professional judgment has been employed in the absence of specific night-time guidance.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	The report at 7.3.8 states that renewable energy developments to the west sets a precedent for wind energy in this general location. We do not agree with this statement. Whilst Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 is generally supportive of renewable energy, each proposal should be assessed on its merits. It is unclear which developments to the west are being referred to, or what is meant by 'general location'.	This was a generalisation based upon initial observations and the proposals have since been assessed on their own merits, and in accordance with best practice.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	The report at 7.3.17 refers to tourism receptors such as scenic viewpoint locations by visitors to Brecon Beacons National Park. It should be noted that the National Park is a receptor of landscape and visual impacts, as are viewers within the park. Some receptors will be tourists and visitors, others may be residents of the park. We therefore advise that this is scoped in and considered within the Environmental StatementES.	The assessment considered impacts to landscape character and to people's visual amenity within the park Published character areas and special qualities are evaluated in the landscape assessment and the visual assessment addressed the effects on people's views within the park from agreed viewpoint locations.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	The report at 7.3.18 states that long distance views to provide a representation of visual effects from the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will be included and that significant effects are not anticipated. Viewpoint 19 at Llanishen is	A view from Llanishen in the Wye Valley AONB has been assessed (now PVP 29), and the potential effects on the character of the AONB within 26km has been assessed separately.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	located 22km from the Site. We consider this to be acceptable, provided the effects on the AONB are adequately assessed and therefore agree with it being scoped in and included within the Environmental Statement.	
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	Three viewpoints from the Brecon Beacons National Park are included in the report, viewpoints 10, 16 and 18, as noted at 7.4.2. A night-time assessment viewpoint from the park will be considered if necessary. Given that the National Park is an International Dark Sky Reserve, and that lighting outside the park can affect the experience inside the park, we advise that at least one viewpoint within the park should be included as part of a night-time assessment. Viewpoints from dark areas of landscape should be included as appropriate, not only from lit roads and settlements. We have recently commissioned a report on Dark Skies, which we advise should be referred to in the assessment. Please refer to the Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales webpage.	PVP 22 from The Blorenge (BBNP) was selected for inclusion in the night-time assessment as suggested by TCBC and three other PVPs have been included from within 5km of the Site. Edge of settlement locations were deemed most appropriate as the frequency and volume of visual receptors is likely to be higher at edge of settlement locations, rather than people using rights of way at night-time. The Dark Skies and Light Pollution mapping has been used to inform the night-time assessment.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	We advise that there are a number of other areas within the National Park with likely visibility of the development, within 26km. Notably, a substantial area of the park across Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangatwg, within approx. 15km, all of which are covered by Common Land or other open access land, as are Pen Cerrig Calch (approx. 19km) and The Sugar Loaf (approx. 16km) in the Black Mountains and Craig y Fan Ddu (approx. 24km) in the Brecon Beacons. We advise that additional viewpoints within the National Park should be scoped in, given the sensitivity of the National designation. We would advise the inclusion of two viewpoints from the trig points at Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangatwg are advised, along with viewpoints at The Sugar Loaf/Pen Cerrig Calch and Craig y Fan Ddu.	All of the suggested additional viewpoints have been included in the assessment. PVP Schedule in **Table 6.8** lists PVP names and numbers. Some PVPs been renumbered since scoping to accord with the distancing order used in the PVP assessment.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	The report refers to LANDMAP Guidance Note 46 (GN46) and at Table 7.3 provides the applicants interpretation of this guidance. Their interpretation states under Filter 4 of the visual and sensory, and historic landscape aspect areas, that focus would be on the remaining aspect areas within 15km. Significant effects are considered unlikely beyond 15km but would illustrate effects beyond this for areas/locations of higher sensitivity. GN46 Filter 4 advises 'retain all Filter 3 aspect areas that are within the study area & those aspect areas outside the study area but might contain highly sensitive visual receptors within the search area'. The 15km detailed study area proposed therefore represents a reduced study area from that proposed by GN46. We would have concerns about this approach, particularly if highly sensitive viewpoints beyond 15km were illustrative only and not assessed. We advise that all outstanding and high evaluated visual and sensory/historic landscape aspect areas within the 26km study area and moderate evaluated aspect areas with outstanding or high evaluated scenic	The assessment for Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape have been conducted to within 26km as opposed to 15km as previously suggested in the SR.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	quality/character should be assessed, as detailed in GN46. This is to ensure that highly sensitive areas and viewpoints within the National Park and AONB up to 26km are considered.	
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	An initial Search Area and Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) of 45km were identified (report 7.3.16), in line with SNH guidance, and a Search and Study Area of 26km in line with GN46 (report 7.4.8). A CLVIA Search Area of 26km, to include routes as well as static viewpoints is proposed (report 7.4.12). We consider these search and study areas for the LVIA to be appropriate; the CLVIA Search Area should be slightly larger than the LVIA Study Area, to include large wind turbine developments just beyond 26km.	Noted.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	The report states at 7.4.19 - 20 that panoramic photos and wirelines for each viewpoint would be provided, with photomontages from some viewpoints to be agreed. We advise that, in accordance with Landscape Institute TGN06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Type 4 representations with photomontages should be provided for viewpoints within the National Park, given the sensitivities. Cumulative photomontages/wirelines should also be produced illustrating cumulative effects on the National Park.	Viewpoints selected for photomontage creations have been guided by the screening opinion and cumulative wireframes have been prepared for all National Park views included in the viewpoint assessment.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	Table 7.9 of the report sets out the Level of Effects Matrix. We have some concerns that this table is likely to lead to some effects being underestimated. We suggest for example, that Medium sensitivity + Medium magnitude of change is likely to lead to a moderate level of effect, rather than a Moderate/minor effect as indicated by the table. High sensitivity + High magnitude is likely to lead to a Major effect, Very High sensitivity + Medium magnitude to Major effects, High sensitivity + Medium magnitude to Major/Moderate effects and so on.	Acknowledged, the LVIA follows GLVIA and wider best practice. Clear narrative descriptions have been provided throughout the assessment to ensure the combination of guidance and professional judgement is used to arrive at a rational conclusion on the effects of likely significance.
Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	The report at 7.6.2 states that landscape effects on LANDMAP aspect areas would be assessed. It is the effect on the character and attributes within these areas that needs to be assessed, rather than the effect on the aspect area, in our view. The assessment should include effects on the purposes of the National Park, specifically in relation to natural beauty and the Special Qualities of the park as they relate to landscape. Reference should be made to the National Park Management Plan and Landscape Supplementary Planning Guidance.	Acknowledged, the features and attributes, where available from LANDMAP surveys has been reviewed in accordance with TNG46, at various levels depending on the given data set. With methodology requiring judgments on scale and extent it necessitates assessment of the aspect areas as identified within LANDMAP.

6.4 Data gathering methodology

Study area

LVIA study area

6.4.1 Through the consultation process, a broad 'study area' of 26km as shown on **Figure 6.1** was agreed, which allowed the geographical scope of the assessment to be defined. The search focussed on the local planning policy context, on identifying national and local landscape and other associated designations (e.g. National Parks and AONBs), and providing a general geographical understanding of the Site and its broader context (for example, in relation to landform, transport routes and the distribution and nature of settlement.

6.4.2 Lastly, following a more detailed review of guidance notes, analysis and the scoping direction, a tiered study area approach has been set out to assess landscape character and visual amenity. The breakdown of the tiered approach, in accordance with guidance is set out in **Table 6.5** below.

Table 6.5 Study Areas for the LVIA

Element of the LVIA	**Study Area**
1) International/National Landscape Designations with very high sensitivity: Blaenavon WHS, Brecon Beacons NP, Wye Valley AONB and Promoted Routes. 2) Visual receptors with very high sensitivity (publicly accessible locations from these designations)	26km
3) Visual Receptors - with high to low sensitivity: minor roads, PROW, country parks etc.	15km
4) LANDMAP Aspect Areas: Cultural, Landscape Habitats and Geological.	Within the Site boundary
5) LANDMAP Aspect Areas: Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape, within the ZTV with 'outstanding' or 'high' evaluations overall. 6) VSAA aspect areas within the ZTV with a 'moderate' overall evaluation whereby the scenic quality and/or character criteria are 'outstanding' or 'high'.	26km
7) Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Includes wireframes and photomontages from settlements within 2km of the nearest turbine, and a description of outlying properties within the Study Area.	2km
8) Night-time Assessment Includes two-three night photomontages within 5km and an additional view as requested by consultees from the Blorenge (BBNP), which is over 9km distance from the nearest turbine.	5km focussed study area with occasional reverence to more distant viewpoints
9) Cumulative LVIA Includes consented, operational and sites in planning and scoping. Includes single turbines of 45m+ to tip height where they are within 3km of the Site boundary.	27km

Element of the LVIA	Study Area
Includes single turbines which are 50m high or taller beyond 5km.	

Desk study

6.4.3 A summary of the primary 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 (imagery date July 2021) and Street View.	Baseline information and Street View images on the landscape context including drainage, settlement pattern, land use, tree cover, transport network and infrastructure.
NRW	LANDMAP Geological Landscape (GLAA), Landscape Habitats (LHAA), Visual and Sensory (VSAA), Historic Landscape (HLAA) and Cultural Landscape (CLAA) GIS dataset and evaluations.	Baseline information on landscape character in Wales, recorded and evaluated in a nationally consistent data set.
	Tranquillity and Place – Dark Skies Report No: 514.	Web-based map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales and accompanying report provides baseline information with regard to light pollution.
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Future Beacons, The Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2022-2027, Consultation Draft.	Set out Management practices and Special Qualities of the BBNP.
	Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment.	Published landscape character assessment.
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)	Datasets of Special Landscape Areas.	Spatial boundaries provided.
Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC)	Dataset of Special Landscape Areas[7].	Spatial boundaries provided.
Sustrans	National Cycle Routes[8].	Provides details of the National Cycle Routes within the LVIA study areas.

[7] 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 08 July 2021)

[8] Sustrans. (2021). Map of the National Cycle Network. (Online). Available at: https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network (Accessed 08 July 2021)

Wind farm development for consideration in the cumulative assessment

Figure 6.32 shows the wind farm developments located within 27km of the Site which have been scoped into the assessment, and these are listed in **Table 6.7**. As per the methodology agreed with statutory consultees, single turbine schemes with 45m height to blade tip or more within 3km of the Site have been included, and those under 50m beyond 5km have been scoped out of the assessment.

Table 6.7 Wind Farms developments included to the cumulative assessment

Wind Farm	Local Planning Authority	Number of wind turbines	Height to blade tip (m)	Approximate distance to the closest proposed Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm turbine (km)	Status
Abertillery	Blaenau Gwent Council/ Torfaen	7	180	2	Scoping
Castell Llwyd Farm	Caerphilly County Borough Council	1	77	13	Operational
Coed y Gilfach Farm	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	2	45	0.6	Operational
Cruglwyn	Caerphilly County Borough Council	2	86	7.5	Operational
Gelli-wen Farm	Caerphilly County Borough Council	1	77	7.8	Operational
Groesfaen Farm	Caerphilly County Borough Council	1	77	9.6	Operational
Little Longlands Lane	Newport Borough Council	1	100	22.1	Operational
Llwyncelyn Farm	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council	2	125	21.4	Operational
Manmoel	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	5	180	7.5	Scoping
Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	8	180	2.8	Planning
Mynydd Maen	Caerphilly County Borough Council	15	150	2.1	Scoping
Oakdale Business Park	Caerphilly County Borough Council	2	130	4	Operational
Pen March	Caerphilly County Borough Council/ Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	7	180	16.8	Scoping
Penrhiwgwaith Farm	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	1	86	8.2	Operational

Wind Farm	Local Planning Authority	Number of wind turbines	Height to blade tip (m)	Approximate distance to the closest proposed Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm turbine (km)	Status
Pen-Y-Fan Ganol Farm	Caerphilly County Borough Council	1	74	4.4	Operational
Pen-Y-Fan Industrial Estate	Caerphilly County Borough Council	1	124	3.9	Operational
Rush Wall Redwick	Newport Borough Council	1	150	22	Consented
Tesco Distribution Centre (East)	Newport Borough Council	1	100	21.2	Operational
Tesco Distribution Centre (West)	Newport Borough Council	1	100	21	Operational
Trecelyn	Caerphilly County Borough Council	5	150	2.7	Scoping
Twyn Hywel	Caerphilly County Borough Council	20	200	13	Scoping
Pen Bryn Oer		3	110	12.9	Operational
Rassau Industrial Estate (Unit 15)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	1	72	13	Operational
Rassau Industrial Estate (Unit 19)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	1	80	12.9	Consented
Rassau Industrial Estate (Former Tech Board Site)	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	1	78	12.8	Operational
Solutia	Newport Borough Council	2	130	17.5	Operational
Nash Treatment Works	Newport Borough Council	1	130	18.8	Operational
Ferndale	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council	8	74	24.5	Operational
Bryntail Farm	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council	2	71	17.6	Operational
Bedlwyn Farm	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	1	86	8.7	Operational

6.4.4 Cumulative ZTVs have been modelled to identify how many wind farm developments located within 27km of the Site would be seen in combination with the Proposed Development at Mynydd

Llanhilleth. Two Scenarios have been considered to aid the assessment and these have been assessed as follows:

- **Scenario A** shows Mynydd Llanhilleth + schemes in operation and consented; and
- **Scenario B** shows Mynydd Llanhilleth + schemes in operation and consented + schemes in planning or in scoping.

6.4.5 Scenario A cumulative ZTV is shown on **Figure 6.33** and Scenario B cumulative ZTV is shown on **Figure 6.34**.

Field Survey

6.4.6 A number of field surveys have been undertaken to assess Site character and visit viewpoint locations in the wider area. These visits supplemented the RVAA (**Appendix 6M**), the PVP assessment (**Appendix 6I**) and the night-time assessment (**Appendix 6K**), and the dates are as follows:

- 18 March 2021;
- 04 February 2022;
- 04 March 2022;
- 17 March 2022;
- 01 April 2022;
- 04 April 2022;
- 08 April 2022;
- 19 March 2022;
- 08 May 2022; and
- 19 May 2022.

6.4.7 All photography was taken in accordance with the LI's *Visual Representation of Development Proposals 06/19*[9]. All photography was recorded during winter months (where possible) to reflect the worst-case scenario where vegetation is not in leaf. All photographs presented within 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 to 1.6m above ground level.
- A 50 mm fixed focal length (prime) lens; and
- A professional quality tripod fitted with panoramic head and levelling plate.

Viewpoint analysis

6.4.8 As previously stated, using landform data in GIS a number of ZTV plans have been prepared. The ZTVs have been generated using terrain landform data, and do not take into account other landscape features that might limit the extent of theoretical visibility, such as vegetation and buildings. The ZTVs are based on the Site contours to see the extent of theoretical visibility of the

[9] Visual Representation of Development Proposals Technical Guidance Note 06/09, Landscape Institute, September 2019.

Site its current form. The blade tip ZTV is run at 180m to tip height. Lastly the hub height ZTV is based on 122m to nacelles.

6.4.9 The ZTVs illustrate the theoretical visibility based on a 50m digital terrain model (DTM) data for the 26km study area. The ZTVs showing 2km study area for the RVAA are based on 5m DTM. ZTVs assume excellent visibility with no atmospheric attenuation.

6.4.10 **Figure 6.6** demonstrates the visual influence of the Site in its current form. The subsequent proposal ZTVs at **Figures 6.7** to **6.10** inclusive illustrate that the theoretical visual extent of the proposals will inevitably increase with development. The visual assessment process determines the extent of the increase in visual influence as well as the magnitude of any visual effects that arise.

6.4.11 **Figure 6.11** illustrates the LVIA PVP Locations assessed as part of the LVIA. **Figure 6.12** includes 30 PVPs that have been identified in the blade tip ZTV of the proposed parameters of the Proposed Development and agreed through consultation. These views are from locations where there are likely to be sensitive visual receptors in designated landscape such as the BBNP the Wye Valley AONB, SLAs and Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs) and those upon PRoW and at residential properties. These views form the basis of the visual assessment, the significance of any effect being assessed in terms of the magnitude of change in the view and the sensitivity of the visual receptors.

6.4.12 The location of these views is set out in **Table 6.8** and shown on **Figure 6.11**. In keeping with good practice, the proposed viewpoints, including accurate visual representation PVPs and night-time PVPs have been agreed with TCBC, BGCBC, CCBC, BBNP and NRW, with those requested additionally noted in **Table 6.8** below. 14 of the of the viewpoints have been taken forward and developed as photomontages including **PVPs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28,** and **30**. Four PVPS (**6, 11, 12**, and **22**) encompassing residences/settlement edges and prominent viewpoints (e.g. summit of The Blorenge within the BBNP) have been developed as night time viewpoints for particular demonstration of any likely night-time effects to particular receptors.

Table 6.8 LVIA Photoviewpoint locations

Photoviewpoint No. Title & Description	Grid Reference	Distance to Nearest Turbine	Principal Receptor(s)	Photo-montage Created?	Night-time viewpoint?
1 - Mynydd Llanhilleth Common, taken from within the Site looking north-east to south-east	323272, 202317	218m	Recreational receptors- PRoW and Open Access Land	Yes	No
2 - Tipentwys Cut looking north	324010, 201046	688m	Recreational receptors – private land	No	No
3 - Public footpath looking south-west towards the Site	325142, 202750	526m	Recreational receptors – PRoW	Yes	No
4 - Public footpath at Llanerch Memorial looking south-west to north-west towards the Site	325247, 202410	655m	Recreational receptors – PRoW and location of Memorial.	Yes	No
5 - Blaen-y-cwm Road looking north towards the Site	323998, 200272	943m	Road users; Residential receptors;	Yes	No
6 - Public Footpath in Pantygasseg to the east of Mountain View looking north-west towards the Site	325376, 199908	974m	Recreational receptors; PRoW Residential receptors; Road users;	Yes	Yes

Photoviewpoint No. Title & Description	Grid Reference	Distance to Nearest Turbine	Principal Receptor(s)	Photo-montage Created?	Night-time viewpoint?
7 - Car park at Big Arch, Abersychan	325972, 203535	1.62km	Recreational receptors- PRoW;	Yes	No
8 - Public footpath to the east of Abertillery looking south towards the Site	323152, 204388	1.68km	Recreational receptors- PRoW	Yes	No
9 - B4246 (Church Road) junction with Heol Waun, Talywain looking south-west towards the Site	326160, 203928	2.01km	Residential receptors; Public Green Road users;	No	No
10 - Public footpath to the west of Six Bells looking south-east towards the Site	321304, 202965	2.29km	Recreational receptors - PRoW	No	No
11 - Llanerch Lane in Pen-tywn on the edge of settlement looking north-east towards the Site	320970, 200605	2.36km	Road users; Residential receptors;	No	Yes
12 - Torfaen Trail and Woodside Road in Trevethin looking west towards the Site	328084, 202525	3.34km	Recreational receptors;- PROW Promoted Route Residential Receptors;	No	Yes
13 - Pen-y-Fan Country Park, Oakdale looking east towards the Site	319660, 200948	3.64km	Recreational receptors- Country Park	No	No
14 - Melvin Place / Llewelyn Avenue junction in Croespenmaen looking north-east towards the Site	319774, 198520	4.31km	Residential receptors;	No	No
15 - Coety Mountain summit (Mynydd Farteg Fawr) looking south towards the Site	325016, 206883	4.19km	Recreational receptors- Open Access Land	No	No
16 - Lasgarn Lane, south-eastern tail of BBNP looking south-west towards the Site	328860, 204146	4.49km	Recreational receptors- BBNP Open Access Land	Yes	No
17 - View from Sunnyview, Argoed looking north-east towards the Site	317703, 199831	5.72km	Residential receptors-	No	No
18 - Blaenavon World Heritage Site looking south-west towards the Site	327157, 207767	5.73km	Recreational receptors- PROW World Heritage Site	No	No
19 - Rocking Point, scenic viewpoint looking south-east towards the Site	316025, 204244	7.72km	Recreational receptors- PRoW Open Access Land	No	No
20 - Cinnabar Drive, Springfield, Pontllanfraith looking north-east towards the Site	317014, 196188	7.92km	Residential receptors;	No	No
21 - Twmbarlwn summit looking north towards the Site	324188, 192605	8.14km	Recreational receptors- Promoted route,	No	No

Photoviewpoint No. Title & Description	Grid Reference	Distance to Nearest Turbine	Principal Receptor(s)	Photo-montage Created?	Night-time viewpoint?
			Scenic Viewpoint Open Access Land		
22 - The Blorenge Summit (BBNP) looking south-west towards the Site	327002, 211820	9.49km	Recreational receptors-BBNP Promoted Route Open Access Land	Yes	Yes
23 - Cefn y Brithdir near New Tredegar looking east-south-east towards the Site	312786, 203873	10.82km	Recreational receptors; PRoW Promoted Route	No	No
24 - Rhymney Valley Ridge Walk west of Risca looking north-east towards the Site	318577, 190554	11.46km	Recreational receptors-PRoW Promoted Route	No	No
25 - Mynydd Llangatwg trig point (BBNP) looking south-east towards the Site	320286, 214486	12.16km	Recreational receptors-BBNP Open Access Land	Yes	No
26 - Sugar Loaf trig point (BBNP) looking south-west towards the Site	327305, 218733	16.24km	Recreational receptors-BBNP Promoted Route Open Access Land	Yes	No
27 - Mynydd Llangynidr (BBNP) looking south-east towards the Site	312231, 214928	16.76km	Recreational receptors-BBNP Open Access Land	Yes	No
28 - Cefn yr Ystrad summit, (BBNP) looking south-east towards the Site	308701, 213740	18.65km	Recreational receptors-BBNP Open Access Land	Yes	No
29 - Wye Valley AONB minor road north of Llanishen, looking west towards the Site	347114, 203520	22.14km	Road users;	No	No
30 - Craig y Fan Ddu (BBNP) taken from the Beacon Way looking south-east towards the Site	305229, 218797	24.51km	Recreational receptors; BBNP Promoted routes Open Access Land	Yes	No

6.5 Overall baseline

Current baseline

Site Context

6.5.1 The Proposed Development occupies part of Mynydd Llanhilleth Common located between Abersychan (within TCBC) and Abertillery (within BGCBC). It lies in the centre of a large, north-south trending ridge of high land between the Cwm Afon valley (Abersychan, Pontypool etc.) to the east, and the Ebbw Fach valley (Abertillery) to the west. This ridge comprises a series of plateau typically

between 400m and 550m aOD and is characterised by unenclosed grazed land. There is much evidence of historic industrial activity on the slopes of the ridge, particularly in the Cwm Afon valley. Areas of plantation forestry are common elsewhere on the slopes of the ridge and drystone walls augmented with post and wire fencing demarcate the edge of the unenclosed area from the surrounding enclosed pastures.

6.5.2 A detailed description of the landscape at the Site is provided in **Appendix 6B.** In summary, the highest point of the Site forms a plateau around 470m aOD at the northern boundary and falls south to a central plateau of the Site at around 435m aOD. The Site boundaries generally follow the edge of the plateau at the point where landform begins to fall into the steep valleys. **Figure 6.2** illustrates the topography of the Site and its wider hills and valleys context.

6.5.3 At a Site level there are three 'Site Character Areas' (as identified and described within **Appendix 6B** and illustrated on **Figure 6.17**). These include grassland plateau, farmland slopes and a largely felled plantation. The plantation land forms a small valley within the plateau and in contrast with its surroundings forms a 'changing landscape' and has undergone substantial felling within the last year. Overall, the scale and pattern of the landscape is vast and largely homogeneous. Public accessibility is permitted across much of the Site due to common land and rights of way permissions, and small roads are also part of the Site's fabric. Notwithstanding some reduction in the quality of the landscape fabric and some minor detractors as a result of human influence and mis-uses, the large scale and elevated landscape of the Site is considered to have a high value and medium susceptibility to change, and has been ascribed a **high** sensitivity to development. The elevated and panoramic views available from the Site have strong visual and perceptual qualities in the round, and the perceived separation from the settled valleys increases the sense of tranquillity and remoteness.

6.5.4 In respect of the proposed access route, this extends circa. 3.6km along an existing, surfaced public road from the urban area of Talywain in the north-east, heading south-westwards towards the Site to a point on the high plateau of Mynydd Llanhilleth Common. The route supports a variety of habitats either side of the highway, with areas of dwarf shrub heath and grassland.

6.5.5 The proposed grid connection route is generally centred on an unsurfaced track, through farmed upland fields contained in parts by established scattered trees which include a mosaic of scrub, bracken and tightly grazed grassland.

Landscape Receptors

6.5.6 The landscape baseline is set out at **Appendix 6B**. Landscape receptors which have been considered are discussed in terms of national landscape designations, local landscape designations and published character assessments.

National Landscape Character

6.5.7 The character of Wales has been described and classified at a national level, in the National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) profiles published by NRW. The Site and its surroundings fall within NLCA 37, 'South Wales Valleys' and the NLCA is summarised in **Appendix 6B**.

6.5.8 While NLCA 37 is broadly representative of the Site's landscape context, for the scale of the Site, the LANDMAP and local area assessments are of much greater use in establishing the landscape resource baseline therefore the impacts on NLCA 37 are not assessed in the LVIA.

LANDMAP

6.5.9 The landscape character of the Site and the surrounding area is defined within the LANDMAP resource managed by NRW. LANDMAP is the national information system used to undertake an

assessment of the landscape character as presented by the LANDMAP Geographical Information System and classifies five LANDMAP data sets which are in turn subdivided into various aspect areas: GLAA; VSAA; Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAA); LHAA; and CLAA.

6.5.10 NRWs '*Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46'* provides the guidance used in combination with professional judgement and GLVIA3 to determine those LANDMAP Aspect Areas to be scoped into the assessment of potential effects resulting from the Proposed Development. The approach of using LANDMAP within LVIA is set out within the retrospective LANDMAP assessments contained at **Appendix 6C** to **6G**. Details of the filtering process used for each of the five LANDMAP Aspects Areas and the subsequent Aspect Areas assessed is also provided within the appendices. A detailed schedule of the key attributes used for each LANDMAP Aspect Area alongside judgements of landscape sensitivity which considers both value and susceptibility in accordance with GLVIA3 is also set out for each Aspect Area or group of Aspect Areas assessed in **Appendices 6C** to **6G**.

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAA)

6.5.11 The filtering process detailed in **Appendix 6C** identified 73 VSAA within the Study Area to be scoped into the assessment of effects resulting from the Proposed Development. For ease of assessment and in interest of proportionality to identify those VSAA likely to experience significant effects, the VSAA have been assessed in groups, firstly of 'host' areas that cross over the Site and may incur direct (physical and perceptual) effects of the Proposed Development, and then according to distance bands (within 5km, 5-10km 10-15km, 15-20km and 20-26km) where only indirect perceptual effects could occur as result of intervisibility with the Proposed Development. The methodology specific to VSAA is described in **Appendix 6C**. The filtering process resulted in the identification of six 'Host' VSAA, 7 VSAA within 5km, 11 VSAA within 5-10km, 19 VSAA within 10-15km, 11 VSAA within 15-20km, and 19 VSAA within 20-26km.

6.5.12 The location and extent of the areas of these VSAA within the blade tip ZTV to 26km (worst case scenario) is shown in **Figures 6.23** and **6.24**. The description and assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6C.**

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAA)

6.5.13 Similarly, the filtering process detailed in **Appendix 6D** identified 96 HLAA within the Study Area to be scoped into the assessment of effects resulting from the Proposed Development. As with VSAAs, for ease of assessment and in interest of proportionality to identify those likely to experience significant effects, the HLAA have been assessed in groups, firstly containing those 'host' areas that cross over the Site and may incur both direct physical and perceptual effects from the Proposed Development, and then according to distance bands (within 5km, 5-10km 10-15km, 15-20km and 20-26km) where only indirect perceptual effects as result of intervisibility with the Proposed Development. The methodology specific to HLAA is described in **Appendix 6D**. The location and extent of the areas of these HLAA within the blade tip ZTV within 26km (worst case scenario) is shown in **Figures 6.25** and **6.26.** The description and assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6D**.

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLAA)

6.5.14 The filtering process detailed in **Appendix 6E** identified 12 CLAA within the Study Area to be scoped into the assessment of effects resulting from the Proposed Development. These included only those aspect areas within or adjacent to the Site in accordance with NRWs GN46 and are summarised in **Appendix 6E**.

6.5.15 The location and extent of the areas of these CLAA is shown in **Figures 6.27**. The description and assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6E.**

Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (LHAA)

6.5.16 The filtering process detailed in **Appendix 6F** identified 14 LHAA within the Study Area to be scoped into the assessment of effects resulting from the Proposed Development. These included only those aspect areas within or adjacent to the Site in accordance with NRWs GN46 and are summarised in **Appendix 6F**.

6.5.17 The location and extent of the areas of these LHAA is shown in **Figures 6.28** and **6.29**. A detailed description and assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6F**.

Geological Landscape Aspect Areas (GLAA)

6.5.18 The filtering process detailed in **Appendix 6G** identified seven GLAAs within the Study Area to be scoped into the assessment of effects resulting from the Proposed Development. These included only those aspect areas within or adjacent to the Site in accordance with NRWs GN46 and are summarised in **Appendix 6G**.

6.5.19 The location and extent of the areas is shown in **Figures 6.30** and **6.31**. A detailed description and assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6G**.

Nationally Designated Landscapes

6.5.20 The following nationally designated landscapes and World Heritage Site fall within the 26km study area:

- BBNP;
- Wye Valley AONB; and
- BILWHS.

6.5.21 The BILWHS is not strictly a landscape designation, but it is acknowledged that the industrial historic nature has formed a landscape of which warranted designation as a World Heritage Site. Local policy also requires that the landscape setting of the BILWHS is considered as part of development proposals in proximity to BILWHS. The location and extent of these designated landscapes is shown in **Figures 6.16**. A detailed description and assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6H**.

6.5.22 In addition, a baseline and assessment of effects upon the heritage asset is contained within **Chapter 7: Historic Environment**.

6.5.23 Additional non-statutory landscape-related national designations considered within this assessment are as follows:

- Country Parks; and
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.

Brecon Beacons National Park

6.5.24 The BBNP is a national landscape designation and of very high landscape value and sensitivity. The *Future Beacons, The Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park Consultation Draft (2022-2027)* sets out the special qualities which have been considered in this assessment. The special qualities of the National Park are outlined in **Appendix 6B**.

6.5.25 The BBNP is divided into 15 landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the *Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment* as described in **Appendix 6B**. 12 are located within 26km of the Site as illustrated on **Figure 6.16.** The location and extent of the LCAs which overlap with the ZTV to tip have been assessed herein.

6.5.26 A detailed description and assessment for each special quality and BBNP LCA scoped into the assessment is set out within **Appendix 6H**.

Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

6.5.27 The Wye Valley AONB is a national landscape designation and of very high landscape value and sensitivity. The AONB Partnership produced the AONB Management Plan (2021) which is a statutory document of material consideration in planning terms. The Management Plan does not discourage new development within or near to the AONB, but instead sets out "*guidance and strategic objectives, giving support and direction to help steer positive landscape change.*"

6.5.28 Special qualities identified at the baseline stage with the potential for indirect effects as a result of the proposals have been scoped into the assessment, and these overlap with the published county level character assessments that cover the Wye Valley landscape.

6.5.29 Character areas referred to as 'Local Management Zones' (LMZ) within 26km of the Site were identified at the baseline stage. The location and extent of the LCAs which overlap with the ZTV to blade tip have been assessed herein as illustrated on **Figure 6.16**. A detailed description and assessment for each LMZ and corresponding special qualities which have been scoped into the assessment is set out within **Appendix 6H**.

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (BILWHS)

6.5.30 The BILWHS is an internationally designated heritage asset whose landscape character forms an important part of this culture and heritage asset and therefore it is considered as part of this assessment.

6.5.31 The location of the BILWHS is illustrated on **Figure 6.16**, and the extent to which it falls within the ZTV to tip is also shown. The character assessment is set out within **Appendix 6H**.

6.5.32 As part of the data trawl undertaken at the baseline stage, the BILWHS design guide was reviewed and key views to be protected were highlighted (refer to **Appendix 6B**). Out of those listed, one view across Coity Mountain was scoped into the visual assessment due to the potential for effects as a result of the proposal. The rest of the views were scoped out due to the lack of intervisibility between the proposals and the key views listed from the town centre. The assessment of landscape effects to BILWHS is set out within **Appendix 6H**.

Locally Designated Landscapes

6.5.33 Locally Designated Landscapes relevant to landscape character includes SLAs and VILLs. Those within the Study Area were identified at the baseline stage and those more pertinent to the assessment are described in the baseline at **Appendix 6B**. **Figure 6.15** shows three SLAs on or adjacent to the Site boundary therefore potential indirect and direct landscape effects from the Proposed Development are possible. The following 'host' SLAs are assessed at **Section 6.11**:

- St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides SLA;
- Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James SLA; and
- Western Uplands SLA.

6.5.34 There are a further 19 SLAs and 4 VILLs across the 15km study area as listed in **Appendix 6B** and shown on **Figure 6.15**. Effects on local designations outside of the Site would be limited to indirect effects where visual qualities are perceptible within the ZTV. 17 SLAs and three VILLs overlap with the ZTV to blade tip and have been scoped into the landscape assessment which provided in **Section 6.11** of this Chapter.

Visual Receptors

6.5.35 The visual baseline is set out at **Appendix 6B**. Visual receptors which have been considered below are discussed in terms of receptor groups. These include residential receptors, users of rights of way and open access land, users of promoted routes and national cycle routes, visitors to country parks and historic parks and gardens, road users and recreational users of scenic viewpoints including designated viewpoints marked on OS Maps and visitors to nationally designated landscapes. The value and susceptibility of each receptor group was established as part of the baseline analysis.

6.5.36 The overall sensitivity assigned to a visual receptor generally ranges from very high (recreational users of nationally designated landscapes), to low (road users). The sensitivity of residential receptors is generally high overall but the susceptibility in combination with the value attributed to an available outlook is greatly influenced by the surrounding context (settled area verses rural and/or isolated more tranquil landscapes). Similarly, recreational users of rights of way, promoted routes, open access land and national cycle routes are generally considered to have a high sensitivity to change overall as these visual receptors tend to be outside of settled areas and the purpose of using such areas heightens their sensitivity due to recreational value attributed to a route or scenic area.

6.5.37 The visual assessment summarised at **Section 6.12** is underpinned by a set of PVPs which are representative of the range of visual receptors identified at the baseline stage which may experience change as a result of the proposals. The visual assessment comprises the PVP assessment of effects as well as a summary of visual effects for each receptor group summarised below. Visual aids have been prepared to supplement the assessment which include ZTVs, PVPs, wireframes and photomontages included at **Appendix 6B**.

Settlements and dwellings

6.5.38 Within the Study Area, the settlement pattern is highly varied, being of different sizes and differing levels of population density. Cardiff and Newport fall within the far southern extent of the Study Area, forming the largest urban centres. In addition, there are also a number of towns across the north, south and west of the Study Area, generally aligning with the South Wales 'Valleys'. To the east of the Site, population and settlement density is far less, with settlement overall far more scattered and mainly comprising small villages.

6.5.39 The settlement pattern found across the broad Study Area is one that is common across much of the South Wales 'Valleys' area. The dense, periodic settlement pattern tends to fall within the valley bottoms or lower valley sides as with the Ebbw Fach Valley and Afon Lwyd Valley. A number of valley floor urban areas merge, forming a continuous amalgamation of settlement extending a number of kilometres along the valley and/or valley sides. Typically, settlement within the valley bottom lie outside of the ZTV, however, the visual envelop tends to open up at higher contours , where the potential for visual impact occurs.

6.5.40 A detailed RVAA has been undertaken and is contained within **Appendix 6M**. The RVAA considers the residential visual amenity within 2km ZTV to tip, in line with best practice guidance and the anticipated change upon views from private residential dwellings and/or areas. The location of these receptors is illustrated on **Figure 6.22**.

6.5.41 In order to keep the settlement study proportionate, the visual assessment summarised at **Section 6.12** focuses on the visual effects to settlements within 2-15km of the Proposed Development (i.e. to the nearest turbine proposed).

6.5.42 Settlements within 2-15km, which are overlapped by the ZTV to blade tip are identified in the baseline contained at **Appendix 6B**. These settlements are also shown on **Figure 6.20** and are therefore scoped into the visual assessment. The detailed assessment of visual effects to settlements within 2-15km is contained at **Appendix 6J**.

Promoted Routes and Sustrans National Cycle Network

6.5.43 Promoted routes include national trails and long-distance footpaths, and together with National Cycle Network, those that are overlapped by the ZTV to tip have been identified in the baseline contained at **Appendix 6B**. Promoted Routes and cycle routes within 26km that have been scoped into the visual assessment are summarised at **Section 6.12**.

6.5.44 The detailed assessment of visual effects to users of promoted routes and the Sustrans National Cycle Network is contained at **Appendix 6L**.

6.5.45 In summary, the following routes and National Cycle Network (NCN) groups have been considered further in the LVIA assessment.

- Torfaen Trail;
- Cistercian Way;
- Usk Valley Walk;
- Rhymney Valley Ridge Way;
- Beacons Way;
- Offa's Dyke Path (National Trail);
- Sustrans National Cycle Network within 5km; and
- Sustrans National Cycle Network Beyond 5km.

Country Parks and Historic Parks and Gardens

6.5.46 Country parks are described by Lle Geo-Portal as an area within the countryside environment designated for public enjoyment and recreation. These parks are not necessarily designated in recognition of, or for the protection of landscape quality, however, their use as accessible and attractive green spaces means that they hold a high local value. Seven Country Parks are located within 15km and within the blade tip ZTV, these include:

- Pen-y-fan Pond, 3.3km;
- Parc Coertir Bargod, 7.16km;
- Parc Cwm Darran, 7.6km;
- Sirhowy Valley, 8.3km;
- Parc Penallta, 10.3km;
- Brynbach, 11.2km; and
- Clytha Park, 12.8km.

6.5.47 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (HPG) are listed within Cadw and typically sit alongside associated listed buildings, forming an important element as part of their setting within a 'designed' landscape. They may also include features such as publicly accessible walled or kitchen gardens, collections of species, and creation of particular views/vistas. Although some 'designed views' may be present that display the outlook from the grounds, many are more to do with the vista towards the house or its features to emphasize the wealth and upstanding of respective owners at the time.

6.5.48 28 HPGs have been identified within 15km including two to the north-west, 12 to north-east, 10 south-east and four south-west. Of those only four are located within 10km. The majority of HPGs within the Study Area are outside of the ZTV to tip, or nominally overlap with the ZTV and as such would incur negligible effects at most from the Proposed Development. Six HPGs within 15km and the blade tip ZTV have potential for effects as a result of the proposals and these include:

- Pontypool Park, 3.3km;
- Brynderwen, Bettwys Newydd, 11.5km;
- Clytha Park, 12.8km;
- Llanarth Court, 13km;
- Cefn Lla, 11km; and
- Maes Manor Hotel, 6km.

6.5.49 Registered HPGs and Country Parks listed above that fall within the 15km detailed Study Area and blade tip ZTV have been scoped into the visual assessment as summarised at **Section 6.12**.

Open access land and Public Rights of Way

6.5.50 Open access land (OAL) includes common land which is typically elevated grassland land. **Figure 6.19** illustrates the distribution and extent of OAL within the detailed Study Area. The assessment is supported by PVPs taken on PRoW routes or areas of OAL within the wider study area as shown on **Figures 6.11** and **6.12**. Relevant viewpoints include:

- Within the Site:
  - PVP1: Mynydd Llanhilleth Common (OAL); and
  - PVP 3: PRoW Footpath 413/85.
- Within 5km:
  - PVP 4: Mynydd Llanhilleth Common (OAL);
  - PVP 5: Blaen-y-cwm Road, Mynydd Llanhilleth Common (OAL);
  - PVP 6: PRoW Footpath 423/41;
  - PVP 10: PRoW Bridleway 331/110;
  - PVP 11: PRoW Footpath 345/36;
  - PVP 12: Woodside Road / Torfaen Trail;
  - PVP 15: Coety Mountain OAL, PRoW 413/114; and
  - PVP 16: Lasgarn Lane OAL (BBNP).
- Within 5-10km:

- PVP 18: Blaenavon World Heritage Site, OAL and PRoW Footpath 414/46;
- PVP 19: Scenic viewpoint OAL;
- PVP 21: Twmbarlwm (OAL); Cambrian Way;
- PVP 22: The Blorenge (OAL) (BBNP); Cambiran Way;
- 10-15+km PVP 23: Cefn y Brithdir OAL, PRoW Footpath 621/76;
- PVP 24: Rhymney Valley Ridge Walk PRoW 351/CRB33;
- PVP 25: Mynydd Llangatwg trig point (BBNP) OAL;
- PVP 26: Sugar Loaf trig point (BBNP) OAL; and
- PVP 29: Wye Valley AONB.

6.5.51 The assessment of visual effects to users of OAL and rights of way have been considered in the round, and the assessment is contained within the Chapter at **Section 6.12**.

Transport Routes

6.5.52 The 'A' and 'B' road network within the Study Area is generally confined to the valley floors and lower valley sides of the South Wales Valleys region. As such, these visual receptors journeys are characterised by extensive areas of urban development on which the routes pass through, with limited potential for outward views due to a combination of built form, topography and mature vegetation. A network of minor B roads and access roads also traverse Mynydd Llanhilleth and cross into the Site.

6.5.53 Those routes within the LVIA study area that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV are as follows:

- Within the Site:
  - Farm Road;
  - Blaen-Y-cwm Road; and
  - Un-named connection road between Farm Road and Blaen -Y-cwm Road and 'other' access roads.
- Routes within 5km:
  - A4043;
  - A4046;
  - A467;
  - A472;
  - B4246;
  - B4251; and
  - B4471.
- Additional routes between 5 – 15km;
  - M4;
  - A4042;
  - A449;
  - A465;
  - B4235;
  - B4236;
  - B4254;
  - B4256;
  - B4511;
  - B4560;
  - B4596; and
  - B4598.

6.5.54 The assessment of visual effects to road users has been considered in the round, and the assessment is contained within the Chapter at **Section 6.12**.

Future baseline

6.5.55 Given the exposed, rural and upland nature of the Site itself, the future baseline is considered highly unlikely to undergo much change in the short to medium term. In the local Site context, where there is more variation and distinction with landscape features, both managed and unmanaged, there is potential for further removal of managed plantations which could increase visibility to the proposals. The typical cyclical nature of managed plantations (e.g. felling could occur every 20 years) means that the baseline is in constant flux, as is seen by the recent felling adjacent to the Site boundary, although no other exceptionally close plantations were identified that may lead to such a start change in close range views.

6.5.56 Secondly, the character of the surrounding Site context is subject to change, both by planning applications for similar types of development identified in the cumulative assessment, particularly with regard to wind farm applications within in 5km of the Site. All wind energy developments that are considered in the cumulative assessment are listed in **Table 6.7**, and the effects of the Proposed Development against two potential future baselines (scenarios) are summarised in this assessment. Scenario A considers the Proposed Development against a future baseline that includes windfarm schemes that are operational and those that are consented within the planning system within a 27km study area of the Site. Scenario B considers the Proposed Development against a future baseline that includes existing operational and consented wind farm schemes (as in scenario A) plus schemes in planning and not yet determined and those in scoping within 27km of the Site. Scenario A represents a future baseline that is fairly certain whilst Scenario B is far less certain to transpire at time of writing.

6.5.57 The effects of known tree diseases such as Dutch Elm or Ash dieback are not anticipated to change the current baseline in the short term. There may be subtle changes to more vegetated areas within the lower contours of the Study Area in the medium term that could be affected if such species were present, but it is unlikely to notably increase the visual envelop of the proposed scheme and the current baseline also takes into account the worst-case visual extent which is based solely on bare earth modelling.

6.5.58 The known effects of climate change on the natural environment which may be of relevance to landscape and visual matters include crop failure, storm damage and drought. Such effects with potential to occur to the landscape within which the Site sits are unlikely to alter the future baseline of the Site context, or the predicted landscape and visual effects presented herein based on the current baseline. This assumption is based on the open and exposed nature of the Site and local context, as well as the nature of the already available views anticipated in the current visual baseline. Climate change will inevitably lead to more unpredictable weather patterns; however, the effects of extreme heat and heavy rain are inconsequential to future landscape and visual matters. Furthermore, visual assessment of the current baseline makes judgements on the levels of effect predicted to arise on bright and clear days with high visibility.

6.6 Embedded measures

6.6.1 A range of environmental measures have been embedded into the Proposed Development as outlined in **Section 4.48**. **Table 6.9** outlines how these embedded measures will influence the LVIA. A range of compliance mechanisms will be prepared upon condition to ensure appropriate management and maintenance is in place to avoid, minimise or mitigate for adverse landscape effects both during construction and operation.

Table 6.9 Summary of the embedded environmental measures

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Embedded measures	Compliance mechanism
Construction			
Grassland/scrub	Areas of scrub and grass would be removed to facilitate the Proposed Development (e.g. for crane pads, new access tracks, road widening, cabling). Loss of habitat would be temporary where possible and reinstated.	Loss of habitat would be temporary in some instances and therefore reinstated at construction. Where permanent loss occurs, loss would be offset by mitigation planting elsewhere on site as compensation and enhancement would be provided. Cable routes buried below ground and reseeded managed for appropriate grassland/scrub habitat.	LEMP
Hedgerows	Potential minor loss of short sections of hedgerow to facilitate new access tracks, potential impact on field patterns (nominal).	Existing access points, roads and tracks have been used where possible to minimise vegetation loss, and to provide betterment to existing roads which would benefit from upgrading.	LEMP
Trees	Potential minor loss of individual trees (e.g. at access point and along grid connection).	Mitigation planting around access points and additional tree planting in lower parts of the Site.	LEMP
Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	A number of routes cross the Site may be impacted at construction with temporary closures or diversions.	Safety signage, temporary closures and/or temporary diversions.	CEMP
Roads	Impacts on existing site access and roads on site as a consequence of widening and increased traffic to facilitate construction. This includes resurfacing to upgrade poor condition.	Safety signage, temporary closures and/or temporary diversions.	CEMP
Operation			
Landscape and visual receptors	The Site is elevated and exposed, significant visual impacts on landscape and visual receptors in the Study Area as a result of up to 8 turbines with 180m to tip. The character and appearance of Mynydd Llanhilleth and the surrounding landscape will change as a consequence when visible. To reduce landscape and visual effects on site and within the Study Area, the scale of the Proposed Development has been reduced from 11 to eight turbines.	Direct landscape effects on Site have been reduced by using existing roads and access points to minimise landscape effects. The siting and design layout of the array has been considered with respect to the landscape, and separation distances, and siting (similar elevations for each turbine) results in a relatively orderly and linear and simple formation from key views from the BBNP for instance, rather than cluttered. A simple appearance is also in-keeping with the underlying landscape characteristics in this large scale landscape.	LEMP

6.7 Scope of the assessment

The Proposed Development

6.7.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction and operation of up to eight wind turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure. Each turbine proposed has a maximum height to blade tip of up to 180m and a hub height of up to 122m. The specification is for three-bladed rotors with a diameter of up to 150m. The determined life span of the wind farm considered is 30 years. **Annex EDP 1.0** of **Appendix 6B** includes the final layout plan, and a detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided within **Chapter 4** of the ES.

6.7.2 Effects at operation have been considered in detail, and the effects at construction, which includes temporary machinery movement over a period of up to 22 months, as well as permanent direct landscape effects on the landscape have also been considered. The effects at decommissioning have not been considered in herein as significant effects at this stage are highly unlikely.

Spatial scope

6.7.3 The broad Study Area for the principal landscape and visual assessment extends to 26km (from the nearest turbine proposed) in accordance with NRW's guidance (TGN46). The CLVIA Study Area extends slightly beyond 26km as suggested by statutory consultees. The RVAA focusses on residential visual amenity within 2km of the nearest turbine in accordance with best practice guidance. The Study Areas are set out in **Table 6.6** and the tailored approach to assessment is expanded upon.

6.7.4 The spatial scope has been tailored to suit specific receptor groups. Depending on the type and sensitivity of the receptor, various study areas were considered and where practical, effects are discussed in the round to keep the scale of assessment proportionate.

6.7.5 All study areas have ultimately been shaped and influenced by ZTVs; understanding the visual extent from a theoretical perspective further enabled professional judgements to be made on the approach to assessment. ZTVs to tip and to hub, as well as banded ZTVs have been used which illustrate the theoretical number of turbines which may be visible.

Temporal scope

6.7.6 The temporal scope of the assessment of landscape and visual effects is consistent with the period over which the different stages of Proposed Development would occur and therefore covers the following periods:

- A construction phase with a duration of approximately 22 months; and
- A 30-year operational phase.

6.7.7 During construction, the main effects would result from the formation and operation of a construction compound and Site office, material storage and movement including by loaders and large machinery and construction activities including land regrading and construction or widening of access roads, excavation and laying of cabling prior to infilling, installation of foundations and use of large cranes to erect the turbines. Construction activities would be conducted in line with a detailed CMP with works undertaken during specified time periods and conditions as appropriate. Lighting would be required as part of the construction.

6.7.8 It is envisaged that due to nature of wind farm development, construction effects would not exceed the magnitude of change experienced by receptors compared to operational effects, and would be short-term in nature. Additionally, the staged construction process would allow for the completion

of parts of the development with others still under construction, allowing for a shorter overall build out time with specialists able to work on different parts/aspects of the development Site at the same time. As such, proposed turbines would be erected sequentially and the operational phase of the development where all turbines are erected would convey the greatest level of effects. As such, only the operational effects are assessed in detail with construction effects described as appropriate.

Potential receptors

6.7.9 The principal landscape and visual receptors within the ZTV to tip 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 Aspect Areas:	Each of the five LANDMAP data sets have been taken forward for assessment, and the assessment approach has been tailored for each in accordance with NRW's guidance note (TNG46) and professional judgement.
Brecon Beacons National Park & Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty	Typically of very high sensitivity, the landscape effects on the special qualities of these statutory national landscape designations, as well as predicted effects on published character areas within the ZTV which have the potential of significant effects has been included within the assessment.
Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Sites	BILWHS is primarily a heritage asset and it is not strictly a landscape designation. Due to its cultural significance, the WHS is considered a high sensitivity landscape receptor and is therefore included in the assessment.
Special Landscape Areas	SLAs are local landscape designations with particular qualities recognised for their local importance. They are high value landscapes with varying sensitivity depending on their particular attributes, including distance from the Site.
Visually Important Local Landscapes	VILLs are local designations found within the Caerphilly County Council administrative area only. They are designated specifically for their visual qualities, for their county level importance. They are high value landscape of varying sensitivity to the Proposed Development depending on their particular attributes including distance from the Site.
Visual Receptors	
Residential visual receptors in private residences within 2km.	Typically very high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for substantial adverse effects upon residential visual amenity.
Settlements within 2-15km.	Typically high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Recreational users of national landscape designations within 26km.	Typically very high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Recreational receptors using PRoW networks and open access land within 15km.	Typically high or medium sensitivity receptors in their own right where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Recreational receptors of Promoted Routes and Sustrans National Cycle Network within the 26km.	Typically high sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.

Receptor	Reason for consideration
Recreational receptors of Country Parks and Historic Parks and Gardens within 15km.	Typically high or medium sensitivity receptors where there is the potential for significant effects upon visual amenity.
Road users of Motorways, 'A' and 'B' roads within 15km.	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 6.1111**.

Table 6.11 Landscape and Visual receptors scoped in for further assessment

Receptor	Likely significant effects
On Site landscape features and host character areas	Direct and indirect impacts from land-take causing temporary and permanent damage/loss to landscape features from construction of the access route, grid connection corridor and proposed turbines.
Off Site landscape character areas	Indirect landscape impacts on distinctive LCAs such as BBNP, Blaenavon WHS, Wye Valley AONB and LANDMAP datasets, SLAs and VILLs. Significant landscape impacts are unlikely beyond 15km.
Visual Receptors	Significant visual impacts on visitors to BBNP and scenic viewpoints, settlements, recreational users of rights of way, promoted routes and cycle routes, country parks, HPGs and road users.
RVAA visual receptors	Significant visual impacts on the closest residential receptors to the Site.

6.7.11 The receptors/effects detailed in **Table 6.12** have been scoped out of further assessment because the potential effects are not considered likely to be significant.

Table 6.12 Summary of effects scoped out of the landscape and visual assessment

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
LANDMAP Aspect Areas automatically excluded after applying the LANDMAP GN46 filtering process as set out by NRW.	As per consultation with NRW and methodology prescribed within LANDMAP. The LANDMAP data sets taken forward to the detailed assessment are informed by the process outlined in GN46.
LANDMAP Aspect Areas with less than 20% coverage with blade tip ZTV	Due to the vast number of VSAA and HLAA aspect areas still retained within 26km after applying the GN46 filtering process, professional judgment was employed to make the scope manageable. An additional filter was added to concentrate the assessment on potentially sensitive aspect areas most likely to be affected. It is reasonable to assume that aspect areas with less than 20% coverage in the blade tip ZTV are unlikely to result in significant landscape effects as a result of the proposals.
BBNP and Wye Valley AONB published landscape character areas within 26km with less than 1% coverage with the blade tip ZTV	A further filtering process to concentrate assessment on potentially sensitive character areas most likely to be affected. Overall effects on these areas are unlikely to be significant.

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
Users of Country Parks and Historic Parks and gardens outside 15km with coverage with the blade tip ZTV	Due to the nature of these parks, mature vegetation is typically characteristic within and on the boundaries of these parks. Significant effects highly unlikely.
Users of rights of way and open access land outside of 15km with coverage within the Blade tip ZTV	The scope of the assessment sought to focus on a representative receptor group within these subsets, as the scope of the assessment would have become disproportionate. Promoted routes offer a representative set of visual effects within the 26km Study Area, however, and individual PVPs have been assessed within 26km which cover areas of areas of open access beyond 15km, such as more distant OAL in the BBNP.
Residential Amenity of participating land owners with 2km of nearest Turbine	Residential visual amenity (Steps 1-3) was scoped in for all dwellings within 2km and within the zone of visual influence. Step 4 of the RVAA which considers thresholds was scoped out for participating landowners such as Blaen-nant-y-caws Farm, as these are financially involved parties that occupy the concerning properties.

6.8 Assessment methodology

6.8.1 The generic project-wide approach to the assessment methodology is set out in **Chapter 2: Approach to preparing the Environmental Statement**, and specifically in **Sections 2.7** to **2.10**. 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 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition (LI/IEMA, 2013)' (GLVIA3). The criteria referred to, but not defined within the guidelines, has been set out in **Appendix 6A**. Supplementary technical guidance has also informed the methodology and the reference documents used are included in **Appendix 6A**.

6.8.3 The method of assessing the overall sensitivity of any landscape or visual receptor is determined by combining judgements of their susceptibility to the development proposed and the value attached to the landscape or view as set out at paragraph 5.38 of GLVIA3.

6.8.4 However, the assessment of overall sensitivity can change on a case-by-case basis. For example, a high susceptibility to change and a low value may result in a medium overall sensitivity, unless it can be demonstrated that the receptor is unusually/not as susceptible or is in some particular way more/less valuable. A degree of professional judgment applies in arriving at the overall sensitivity for both landscape and visual receptors.

Significance evaluation methodology

6.8.5 The purpose of the EIA process is to identify the potentially significant environmental effects (both beneficial and adverse) of development proposals. Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations specifies the information to be included in all environmental statements, which should include a description of:

"The likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development."

6.8.6 In order to consider the likely significance of any effect, the sensitivity of each receptor is combined with the predicted magnitude of change to determine the significance of effect, with reference also

made to the geographical extent, duration and reversibility of the effect within the assessment. Having taken such a wide range of factors into account when assessing sensitivity and magnitude at each receptor, the significance of effect can be derived by combining the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the matrix in **Table 1.13**.

Table 6.13 Evaluation Matrix

Overall Sensitivity	Overall Magnitude of Change				
	Very High	**High**	**Medium**	**Low**	**Very Low**
Very High	**Substantial**	**Major**	**Major/ Moderate**	**Moderate**	Moderate/ Minor
High	**Major**	**Major/ Moderate**	**Moderate**	Moderate/ Minor	Minor
Medium	**Major/ Moderate**	**Moderate**	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Minor/ Negligible
Low	**Moderate**	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Minor/ Negligible	Negligible
Very Low	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Minor/ Negligible	Negligible	Negligible/ None

6.8.7 The parameters identified for the evaluation of effects follows recommendations for the assessment of visual effects, in guidance historically published by SNH, which states that:

"The…matrix of three classes on each axis producing 9 cells, only 3 of which are typically judged as significant, is in our view simplistic and unrefined and quite unsuitable as a tool for widespread use. In particular it implies a degree of certainty about a very restricted definition of significance that we do not believe is justified. Expanding a 3 x 3 (9 cells) matrix to 4 x 4 (16 cells) or even 5 x 5 (25 cells) is much more representative of the diversity of size and sensitivity found in visual impact assessment."

6.8.8 Each effect is described and evaluated individually through the combination of all of the relevant factors and assessed as either significant or not significant. For landscape and visual effects, those effects identified at a **substantial**, **major**, **major/moderate** or **moderate** level (bold type within matrix above) are generally considered to be significant and those effects assessed at a **moderate/minor**, **minor**, **minor/negligible** or **negligible** level are considered to be not significant.

6.8.9 In certain cases, where additional factors may arise, a further degree of professional judgement may be applied (as emphasised by GLVIA3 (para 2.23)) when determining whether the overall change in the view will be significant or not and, where this occurs, this is explained in the assessment.

6.9 Assessment of landscape effects

LANDMAP

6.9.1 Due to the number of aspect areas in each LANDMAP data set assessed, the detailed LANDMAP assessment appendices are provided in **Appendix 6C-6G**. Assessment summary tables provided below provide an overview of each appendix.

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas

6.9.2 Six 'Host' VSAA, and five groups of VSAA within 26km were assessed. The approach taken was to find comparisons and similarities within the LANDMAP summaries for VSAA within a given group, or indeed identify anomalies within a group to draw conclusions on the ranges of sensitivity and magnitude of change that could be considered worst case within a given band distance.

6.9.3 The detailed assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6C: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas Assessment of Effects**.

6.9.4 **Table 6.14** below provides the summary of effects for VSAA. The nature of all indirect effects identified would be long-term (reversible), and adverse or neutral. Where direct landscape effects were identified (Host VSAA only) the nature of these effects would be permanent and adverse.

Table 6.14 Summary of effects: VSAA

	HLAA ID	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of Effect	Significance
'Host' VSAA	BLNGWVS226	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
	BLNGWVS688	High	High	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
	BLNGWVS985	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
	TRFNVS019	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
	TRFNVS022	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
	TRFNVS024	High	High	**Major/ Moderate**	**Significant**
0-5km	Various	High	High	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
5-10km	Various	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**
10-15km	Various	Very high - medium	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** to **Negligible**	Not Significant
15-20km	Various	Very high - medium	Very Low	**Moderate to Minor**	Not Significant
20km+	Various	Very high – high	Very low	**Moderate/Minor to Minor**	Not Significant

6.9.5 Almost all of the host VSAA and those grouped within 10km are anticipated to experience significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.9.6 From 10-26km of those assessed, there would be no significant landscape effects on VSAA.

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas

6.9.7 Five 'Host' HLAA, and five HLAA groups within 26km were assessed. The approach taken to the group assessment was to find comparisons and similarities within the LANDMAP summaries for HLAA within a given group, or indeed identify anomalies within a group to draw conclusions on the ranges of sensitivity and magnitude of change that could be considered worst case within a given band distance.

6.9.8 The detailed assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6D: LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas Assessment of Effects.**

6.9.9 **Table 6.15** below provides the summary of effects for HLAA. The nature of all indirect effects identified would be long-term (reversible), and adverse or neutral. Where direct landscape effects were identified (Host HLAA only) the nature of these effects physical would be permanent and adverse.

Table 6.15 Summary of effects: HLAA

	HLAA ID	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of Effect	Significance
'Host' HLAA	BLNGWHL025	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**
	BLNGWHL044	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
	TRFNHL012	High	Very Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
	TRFNHL017	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
	TRFNHL019	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
0-5km	Various	High - Low	Medium	**Moderate to Minor**	**Significant** to Not Significant
5-10km	Various	High - Low	Medium	**Moderate to Minor**	**Significant** to Not Significant
10km+	Various	High - Low	Low to Very Low	**Moderate/ minor to Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant

6.9.10 Significant effects were limited to host areas, and some HLAA within 10km from the nearest turbine proposed.

6.9.11 The majority of HLAA within 0-5km band distance would experience **Significant** effects as a result of the proposals. Within 5-10km, very few were found to experience significant effects as a result of the proposals.

6.9.12 Between 10-26km, none were found to experience significant effects, and it is considered very unlikely that there would be a perceived change to HLAA that would result in likely significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLAA)

6.9.13 Twelve CLAA have been assessed. The detailed assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6E: LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Areas Assessment of Effects**.

6.9.14 **Table 6.16** below provides the summary of effects for Host CLAA. The nature of all direct landscape effects would be permanent and adverse.

Table 6.16 Summary of effects: CLAA

CLAA ID	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Significance
BLNGWCLS004	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**
BLNGWCLS022	Low	Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
BLNGWCLS025	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWCLS055	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS013	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS014	Low	Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS015	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS018	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS019	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS022	Very Low	Low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS033	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS035	Very Low	Very Low	**Negligible**	Not Significant

6.9.15 One CLAA (BLNGWCLS004 - St. Illtyd) was judged to have a **Moderate** adverse and **Significant** effect resulting from the Proposed Development due to an elevated (high) sensitivity compared with other CLAA. There would be no significant effects for the remaining CLAA.

Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas (LHAA)

6.9.16 14 LHAA within the Study Area have been scoped into the assessment. The detailed assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6F: LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Areas Assessment of Effects**.

6.9.17 **Table 6.17** below provides the summary of effects for Host CLAA. The nature of all direct landscape effects would be permanent and adverse.

Table 6.17 Summary of effects: LHAA

LHAA ID	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect	Significance
BLNGWLH058	Medium	Very low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH059	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH061	Medium	low	**Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH062	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH063	Low	Very low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH005	Low	Very low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH010	Low	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH015	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH017	Low	Very low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH036	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH042	Medium	Very low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH044	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH050	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH056	Medium	Very low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant

6.9.18 There would be no significant landscape effects on HLAA. For 'host' aspect areas, the Site overlaps with these areas and as such they are likely to incur direct physical effects as a result of the Proposed Development. However, due to the small footprint of the proposals comprising construction of crane pads, short sections of new access tracks and upgrading of existing access roads, which would be permanent, the extent of physical changes to the LHAA is generally very

small in relation to the size of the aspect areas. Cable routing would be underground and infilled following construction leading to transient effects on these interventions only.

Geological Landscape Aspect Areas (GLAA)

6.9.19 Seven GLAA within the Study Area have been scoped into the assessment. The detailed assessment for each is set out within **Appendix 6G**: **LANDMAP Geological Aspect Areas Assessment of Effects**.

6.9.20 **Table 6.18** below provides the summary of effects for Host GLAA. The nature of all direct landscape effects would be permanent and adverse.

Table 6.18 Summary of effects: GLAA

GLAA ID	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Significance
BLNGWGL022	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWGL023	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL003	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNGL014	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL013	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL015	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL016	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant

6.9.21 There would be no significant landscape effects on GLAA. There would be direct landscape effects on some GLAA resulting from physical changes arising from the addition of concrete pad foundations new tracks, and road widening which may include regrading in places. Cable routing associated with the grid connection would be infilled following construction. Construction effects to the geology of the GLAA would be minor and low from a land-take perspective. Effects on hydrology would be low as new access routes within the GLAA would be minimal, and the majority using existing routes which would be widened in parts, but associated ditches and water treatment would be similar. Cable routes would be buried and would be designed/mitigated to ensure future surface water flows are appropriately managed. No significant landscape effects would be incurred.

6.10 Nationally Designated Landscapes

6.10.1 Landscape effects have been assessed in detail for BBNP, the Wye Valley AONB and the BILWHS. The Site is outwith all of these designations therefore only indirect landscape effects have the potential to arise.

6.10.2 The detailed assessment for each designation is set out within **Appendix 6H: BBNP, AONB and BILWHS Assessment of Landscape Effects**.

6.10.3 As non-host receptors, any change to the character or special qualities of the BBNP or AONB for instance is limited to indirect perceptual impacts. Furthermore, perceptual characteristics, which are the only relevant characteristics to an assessment of indirect landscape effects, are only one of many characteristics typically associated with a given special quality. The focus of the assessment therefore rests upon the potential visual connection from within the BBNP, because where indirect impacts cannot be perceived, there would be no effect to landscape character.

6.10.4 National landscapes designated for their scenic beauty are ascribed a very high sensitivity within this assessment. BILWHS is a heritage asset with international status, however, the potential effects to the character of Blaenavon landscape is considered relevant and it is also summarised below purely from a landscape perspective and its sensitivity overall is considered high in this assessment.

Assessment of landscape effects: Brecon Beacons National Park

Special Qualities of the National Park

6.10.5 Of the 10 special qualities identified for the BBNP set out within the 'Future Beacons, The Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2022-2027, Consultation Draft,' four were scoped in for further consideration. The detailed assessment for each special quality is set out within **Appendix 6H**.

6.10.6 **Table 6.19** below provides the summary of effects for special qualities of the BBNPs.

Table 6.19 Summary of effects: Special Qualities of the Brecon Beacons National Park

Special Quality	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of Effect
Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Not Significant
Rugged, remote and challenging	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Not Significant
Sounds, sights, smells and tastes	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Not Significant
Peace, tranquillity and dark skies	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Not Significant
Contrasting patterns, colours, and textures	Scoped out from assessment – physical characteristic that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is outside the BBNP boundary.		
Intimate sense of community	Scoped out from assessment – cultural trait that could not be affected by the Proposed Development.		
Sense of place and cultural identity	Scoped out from assessment – perceptual quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development.		
Enjoyable and accessible	Scoped out from assessment – physical (recreational) quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the BBNP boundary.		
Sense of discovery	Scoped out from assessment – cultural quality that could not be affected by the Proposed Development.		
Diversity of wildlife and richness of seminatural habitats	Scoped out from assessment – physical characteristic that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is outside the BBNP boundary.		

6.10.7 The description of effects for the special qualities which have evaluated in **Appendix 6H** is summarised below. For each of the concerning special qualities evaluated, the sensitivity ascribed was very high, the magnitude of change was very low, and the level of effect is deemed to be **Moderate/Minor** and Not Significant.

Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty

6.10.8 The Proposed Development would alter the views from hilltops intervisible with the Site, with the introduction of turbines added on the skyline. The Proposed Development would not, however,

limit the "*extensive views*", nor would it alter any distinctive features of the "*harmoniously connected landscape*" within the National Park.

Rugged, remote and challenging

6.10.9 Although there would be no change to the "*geographically rugged… and challenging landscapes*", the presence of the Proposed Development in available views from high points may reduce the sense of remoteness. This change would, however, be limited to the locations from which the Site is visible, and only in views directed towards the Proposed Development. Furthermore, the landscape change would only pose a nominal loss to the sense of remoteness due the relative distance between the Site and BBNP, as well as the sheer scale of the BBNP itself.

Sounds, sights, smells and tastes

6.10.10 Although the proposals would be visible from some outward views from the BBNP, intrinsic value associated with the sensory experiences associated with this special quality would be mostly unchanged by the Proposed Development due to the scale of the BBNP, the relative distance from the proposals and amount of BBNP within the ZTV. The addition of the proposals to the wider setting of the BBNP would be perceptible at its closest points, however, e.g. from the south-eastern extents of the BBNP. From this location, the Proposed Development would be seen in outward views from the edge of the BBNP. In these views, the proposals would be perceived as an addition to a settled landscape context, with the other man-made vertical elements present. Overall, the change to the rural setting would be nominal when this special quality of the BBNP is considered in the round. Discreet parts of the BBNP would be effected, but there would be no change to the openness associated with the sights of the BBNP for instance, or an appreciation of the key characteristics of this special quality such as "*fresh air, clean water,… open land and locally produced foods.*"

Peace, tranquillity, and darkness

6.10.11 The addition of proposed turbines would partially reduce the level of tranquillity within the BBNP where visible. The layout and pattern of the turbines would generally appear evenly spread across similar height contours. When multiple turbines overlap and busy the skyline, the tranquillity of the landscape is reduced. The Proposed Development would have a barely noticeable change to the dark skies core as a whole. From the worst affected areas, single aviation lights on each turbine proposed would likely be seen as a very small component of the view. In most instances, the lighting would be seen against the urban glow of the settled valleys and south-coast situated beyond the extent of the Site when viewed, and visible from the BBNP. Overall, given the extent of BBNP which would remain completely unaffected, and the limited direction and intervisibility between the Site and the BBNP, the Proposed Development would result in a barely noticeable change to the tranquillity of the BBNP and the dark skies core as a whole.

6.10.12 No significant effects on the special qualities of the BBNP were found as a result of the Proposed Development during construction or at operation. A moderate/minor level of effect was found for each of the special qualities assessed above. These effects are worst case, which is during operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Published Landscape character Areas within the National Park

6.10.13 Of the six LCA assessed with respect to the Proposed Development, there would be significant landscape effects on one character area; LCA 15 - Blorenge Hills and Slopes when the Proposed Development is considered in isolation.

6.10.14 The change to the landscape character would be limited to west and south-westerly views from a small part of the LCA. The Proposed Development would be visible from the western edge of the LCA along the high points of the ridgeline as demonstrated by the ZTV. Views from the LCA are represented in **PVPs 16** and **22**. From within the LCA directly east of the Site, the addition of the proposed turbines would be clearly noticeable which in turn would have a limited impact on the harmonious juxtaposition of the landscape habitats experienced from parts of this LCA due to the introduction of manmade vertical features.

6.10.15 With respect to cumulative effects, the cumulative ZTVs (**Figures 6.33** and **6.34**) show the areas within 27km of the Site where the Proposed Development or the Proposed Development and one or more of the cumulative schemes scoped into the assessment of cumulative effects may be theoretically perceived. There would be **Significant** landscape effects on LCA 15 - Blorenge Hills and Slopes in Scenario A and B. However, effects from the Proposed Development in Scenario A would not change from that assessed in the existing baseline as additional operational and consented schemes included within this scenario would be barely perceptible and would not notably alter the current baseline situation.

6.10.16 In Scenario B the Proposed Development would potentially theoretically be visible in combination with up to 11-15 other wind farm developments at most from a few discreet parts of the LCA. The proposed schemes in Scenario B would result in a change in the landscape character to a wind farm landscape with turbines breaking the skyline and spreading along the horizon in westerly views, and the Proposed Development would partially infill some gaps when seen in combination with other wind farms perceived from LCA 15. However, review of the wireframes illustrates that even without ML in the view, the cumulative change is such that there would already be a wind farm landscape character; this is particularly due to the presence of the Mynydd Maen, Trecelyn, Twyn Hywel Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Abertilly schemes. Together these wind farms contribute significantly more to the cumulative view than ML, and in terms of both horizontal spread and proximity are equally as visible.

6.10.17 The Proposed Development would result in a low magnitude of change as an addition of ML partially infilling gaps between other schemes in views would result in a minor alteration to the Scenario assessed (e.g. **PVP 16**, **22**).

6.10.18 A significant cumulative landscape effect was also found for LCA 7 – Central Beacons in Scenario B. Although Scenario A did not result in a significant indirect effect to the character of the LCA from that assessed against the current baseline which would remain very low as a whole, a Significant effect was identified in Scenario B. In Scenario B, the Proposed Development would be seen in combination with potentially 21-25 other wind farm developments from any one location within the LCA. This is mostly limited to summits, and there would be a number of schemes in planning or at scoping that are closer to the LCA than the Proposed Development. When the Proposed Development is considered in addition to the other schemes in Scenario B, it would increase the amount of turbines perceived at a considerable distance, and break the skyline along with the other wind farm developments as shown in **PVP 30**.

6.10.19 This would constitute a low magnitude of change and lead to a **Moderate**, **Significant** adverse cumulative effect on the LCA, as a minor alteration would occur due to in the infilling of a gap between other wind farm developments at the scoping stage. Moreover, where visible in a cumulative scenario, there would likely already be a wind farm landscape character evident given the amount of other turbine development visible in views; in this regard, ML would not comprise the main component, or be the defining factor of, the significant effect. This would already have been established. The Proposed Development would result in a minor increase in the amount of other wind turbines which would be theoretically visible, but it would not extend the amount of

turbines seen on the horizon due to the distribution and locations of the other wind farms considered as part of the preliminary cumulative assessment.

6.10.20 No other significant cumulative landscape effects were identified for LCAs within the BBNP.

6.10.21 **Table 6.20** below provides the summary of effects for the BBNP LCAs which have been scoped into the assessment.

Table 6.20 Summary of effects: BBNP LCAs

BBNP Landscape Character Areas	Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) only:				Cumulative Effect: Scenarios A & B	
	Sensitivity	**Magnitude of change**	**Level of Effect**	**Significance**	**Level of Effect**	**Significance**
LCA15: Blorenge Hills and Slopes	Very High	Low	**Moderate**	**Significant**	(A) **Moderate** (B) **Moderate**	(A) **Significant** (B) **Significant**
LCA9: Mynyddoedd Llangatwg & Llangynidr	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant	(A) **Moderate/Minor** (B) **Moderate/Minor**	(A) Not Significant (B) Not Significant
LCA12: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant	(A) **Moderate/Minor** (B) **Moderate/Minor**	(A) Not Significant (B) Not Significant
LCA13: The Black Mountains	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant	(A) **Moderate/Minor** (B) **Moderate/Minor**	(A) Not Significant (B) Not Significant
LCA8: Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant	(A) **Moderate/Minor** (B) **Moderate/Minor**	(A) Not Significant (B) Not Significant
LCA7: Central Beacons	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor to Negligible**	Not Significant	(A) **Moderate/Minor** (B) **Moderate**	(A) Not Significant (B) **Significant**

Assessment of landscape effects: Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Published Landscape Character of the Wye Valley AONB

6.10.22 Three LMZs have been scoped in for further consideration and a detailed assessment is provided in **Appendix 6H.** The potential effects on the special qualities of the AONB have also been combined into the character assessment. Two special qualities associated with the LMZ's which are considered relevant to this assessment are special quality (SQ) 11: Picturesque, extensive & dramatic views; and special quality SQ12: Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness/wildness.

6.10.23 There would be no significant effects to the character or special qualities associated with the Wye Valley AONB. The summary descriptions of anticipated effects are set out below.

LMZ 12 Llangovan Foothills

6.10.24 Westward facing, long distance views that are likely to contain the proposals would be limited to open, west facing slopes within the ZTV. Views out of the AONB in the direction of the Site are typically vast and far reaching across gently undulating low land that contains built form. The proposals would be perceptible in the far distance in the background of the view from some parts of the LMZ. The openness of the views would not be affected. Furthermore, where the proposals would be visible, it would from a considerable distance from the receptor, far beyond the perceived setting of the AONB.

LMZ 13 Devauden Escarpment

6.10.25 Effects to the character of LMZ13 would be limited to its special qualities that relate to visual and perceptual characteristics. "*Long panoramic views*" west would include views of the proposals (as represented in **PVP 29**). Other views towards the proposals from within this LMZ would be limited to areas from higher ground. Where visible, the Proposed Development would form a barely noticeable component of the view. There would be no change to other special qualities of the LMZ.

LMZ 14 Trellech Sandstone Plateau

6.10.26 It is possible that the Proposed Development would be visible in long distance views and vistas from high ground within this LMZ. The Proposed Development is at such a distance, however, that it would be barely noticeable within such views. Furthermore, there would be no change to other special qualities of the LMZ. The addition of proposals on the skyline to the west would not alter the relationship between woodland, pasture and settlement that gives this LMZ its sense of place.

Assessment of landscape effects: Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (BILWHS)

6.10.27 BILWHS has been scoped in for further consideration and a detailed assessment is provided in **Appendix 6H**. There would not be significant effects to the character of BILWHS as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.10.28 The overall sensitivity of this publicly accessible landscape is considered high. The anticipated change as a result of the proposals would be indirect, and the fabric of the protected landscape including its relics would not change fundamentally. As shown by the ZTV to tip height, the areas from which the Proposed Development is likely to be visible is limited to areas of exposed high ground. The level of effect is considered **Moderate/Minor** and Not Significant.

6.11 Assessment of effects: Local Landscape Designations

6.11.1 Due to their identification as locally designated landscapes all SLAs and VILLs are ascribed a high sensitivity. Those scoped in for further assessment are assessed below and the effects are summarised in **Table 6.21**.

Host SLA

6.11.2 Three SLAs are located within or adjacent to the Site and Proposed Development, including access routes, and would experience direct effects (including Blaenau Gwent SLA D- Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James, and SLA E - St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides; and TCBC's SLA H – Western Uplands). Such effects would include creation of new access tracks, minor widening of existing roads, creation of foundations and hardstanding for turbines and ancillary features, including the substation and trenching for below ground cable routing to be subsequently infilled. Due to the limited footprint of built development required as part of such a wind farm development, and low surface level built form in the main for roads, the magnitude of direct effects would be **low** taking into account the overall size of SLAs and general location of turbines within grassland areas.

6.11.3 Minor loss of scrubland areas adjacent to roads and upland grassland would be required to facilitate the Proposed Development, but it is considered that on site embedded mitigation of affected areas from construction works can readily replace and enhance the habitats of interest through appropriate measure within the CEMP and LEMP.

6.11.4 Therefore, although of high value and sensitivity, direct effects on host SLA (in terms of landscape fabric) would be **Moderate/ Minor** adverse and Not Significant. It would not affect the openness of the landscape and field patterns in the vicinity.

6.11.5 Indirect effects upon host SLAs would be much more apparent. With views and perceptual qualities within the Site greatly altered by the presence of new, tall turbine elements. The presence of existing turbines and pylons in the vicinity does present some detractors to existing landscape character in the form of visual clutter. However, the addition of eight new and taller turbines would be new elements to the skyline and immediate context of these SLAs, albeit the industrial heritage of the area is well recognised, and the Proposed Development would add a new chapter in the industrial use of the land in harnessing green energy as opposed to historical extractive industries.

6.11.6 In terms of indirect effects to specific SLAs, the Western Uplands SLA (TCBC) would be the least affected by the Proposed Development being outside the main Site area where no wind turbines would be erected and only the access track enhancements are proposed. Existing wind turbines (located on the hillside east of Coed y Gilfach, Abertillery) are present in proximity on the south-western border of this SLA. T1 and T2 would be in proximity to the southern boundary of this SLA, increasing with the remaining turbines tending to cluster in the same direction of view southwards from within this SLA. The SLA is described as "*An area of mixed landscapes including an open upland plateau …"* with a "*vast, open character, mostly covered in dry heathland and acid grasslands but with a strong sense of place.*" There is no mention of any particularly important views, however, and its fundamental nature as a vast open upland landscape would remain. Indirect effects upon this SLA would not exceed high magnitude of change at most. Combining indirect and direct effects upon this SLA, overall effects would be **Moderate** (medium magnitude and high sensitivity in the long term), **Significant** and adverse.

6.11.7 The Blaenau Gwent SLAs of St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides SLA, and Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James SLA that cross into the west of the main Site area would each host one new turbine as a result of the Proposed Development, which would be located at the very edges of their respective SLA, with further proposed turbines located in the same direction of views. As stated above, wind turbines are already present on the margins of the St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides SLA just north of the Site, imparting a certain amount of existing wind development of the same nature in the vicinity of the Site and within the context of these SLAs, reducing their susceptibility somewhat. However, the new development would represent larger scale turbines to the upland landscapes. Key characteristics for both SLAs include panoramic views, attractive backdrops to settlements and prominent skylines.

6.11.8 Approximately 90% of St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides SLA is within the ZTV of the Proposed Development, however, its panoramic views are "*especially west and south, to other plateau landscapes*" away from the Site. Given low magnitude direct effects to a small area of the SLA and high indirect effects to an extensive area of the SLA (from where turbines may be visible as represented by the ZTV), overall effects on the character of this SLA are judged to be of high magnitude, **Major/Moderate** adverse and **Significant**.

6.11.9 The Proposed Development would not be visible from a large part of the Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James SLA with approximately 50% of the SLA located within the ZTV of the Proposed Development and subject to potential indirect effects. However, a key policy and management objective of this SLA is to "*conserve 'unspoilt' qualities*" including to "*Resist large-scale development, including tree planting, especially on skylines"*. The skylines of the SLAs would be directly affected by the Proposed Development which clearly contradicts this objective (albeit only one turbine proposed would be within the respective SLA). Overall effects on this SLA would be high of magnitude, **Major/ Moderate** adverse and **Significant**.

Local Landscape Designations Outside of the Site

6.11.10 A further 17 SLA and three VILLs are located within the 15km Study Area and the blade tip ZTV for the Proposed Development. Potential indirect effects on these are discussed within their respective local authority groups as set out below.

Blaenau Gwent SLAs

6.11.11 SLA F Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn is located c. 2km north-west of the Site, which includes a reservoir and is described as "Strong rural character" comprising "Small fields with stone walls in poor condition and scattered farmhouses" with a "Hidden, 'tucked away' quality". Approximately 25% of this SLA extends into the ZTV of the Proposed Development and would not affect its identified special qualities. Indirect effects on this SLA would result in a low magnitude of change. The level of effect would be **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

6.11.12 SLA A Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail is a large SLA that extends from c. 1km to 12km north-west of the Site along a broad hillside. Approximately 50% of this SLA is located within the ZTV of the Proposed Development, generally confined to east facing slopes and ridgeline summit. Comprising important ecological habitats, it also notes "Distinctive open skyline seen from valleys on either side; Panoramic views across to other ridges; Varied backdrop to valley settlements, with rock exposures, woodland, open grassland, quarries, etc; Good views into valley." The Proposed Development would not affect its intrinsic "Well-preserved pattern of pre-industrial farmland of small rectangular fields with distinctive stone walls and overgrown beech hedges", nor would it affect the distinctive skylines within the SLA which management policies aim to conserve by resisting "large-scale development, including tree planting, especially on skylines". The Proposed Development would alter a small section of wide panoramic views from this SLA directed south-east. Effects would not exceed medium magnitude leading to **Moderate** adverse and **Significant** effects in the long term.

6.11.13 SLA H Cefn Manmoel is a large SLA that runs parallel to SLA A on an adjacent ridgeline and extends from c. 2km west of the Site, north-west a further 12km or so. Approximately 50% of this SLA is located within the ZTV of the Proposed Development, generally confined to east facing slopes and ridgeline summit above the wooded valley sides. Intervening hills separate the Site from the SLA, creating a visual buffer, distance and distinction between the two areas. Due to distance and separation, indirect effects on the character of this SLA would only affect one element - a small part of much wider views where visible. The magnitude of change would be low and the level of effect, **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

6.11.14 The remaining SLA, (SLA B- Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides; SLA C- Beaufort Common; and SLA G- Trefi and Garnlydan Surrounds) are located at greater distance from the Site and beyond further intervening hillsides. SLA B is located c. 8km from the Site at its nearest point, extending north-west c. 5km. Approximately 50% of this SLA lies within the ZTV of the Proposed Development. Indirect effects may change some of the identified qualities of the SLA (e.g., outward distant panoramic views), however, the vast majority of the features of interest within this SLA would remain as per the baseline. Changes would comprise changes to small parts of long-distance views south-east towards the Site where the Proposed Development would feature as new tall wind turbine elements on distant hilltops. Effects would not exceed low with "*minor alteration to one or more key landscape characteristics*" and would be **Moderate/Minor**, Not Significant and adverse at worst. Effects on SLA C and G would be similar, but at even increased distance of c. 11km and 12.5km north-west of the Site respectively at their closest points. The Proposed Development is likely to be visible from c. 60% (SLA C), and 45% (SLA G) of these SLAs and visual influences are typically focused on views over adjacent built form and valleys. Effects from the Proposed Development on these SLAs would be low to very low in magnitude. The level of effect is considered **Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

Torfaen SLAs

6.11.15 Four Torfaen SLAs are located north-east of the Site. SLA H (Western Uplands) extends over the Site and is discussed previously. SLA G Afon Lwyd Valley, as the name indicates, occupies an area of lower lying valley land approximately 1km east of the Site and 2.5km from the nearest proposed turbine location and extends northwards c. 6km. The majority of the SLA is outside the ZTV of the Proposed Development and much of its southern extent (within the ZTV area) is woodland where views of the Proposed Development are likely to be screened. Indeed, this SLA corresponds well to the area of VSAA TRFNVS032 which was scoped out of the assessment during the screening process indicating it is unlikely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development and concurs with field assessment. Effects on this SLA would be low in magnitude 'Minor alteration to one or more key landscape characteristics' where visible, **Moderate/Minor** and Not Significant, adverse.

6.11.16 SLA E, the Blaenavon Heritage Landscape is located c. 4km north of the nearest turbine at its closest point and extends northwards, looping around the settlement of Blaenavon. A very minimal extent of this SLA (c. 10%) on elevated land along its southern boundary lies within the ZTV of the Proposed Development. Indirect visual effects would be distant beyond intervening hillsides, in one part of wide panoramic views where the focus is typically northwards away from the Site and over the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. Effects on this SLA would therefore be **low** 'minor alteration to one or more key landscape characteristics', **Moderate/Minor** and Not Significant, and adverse overall.

6.11.17 SLA F is located c. 4km north-east of the Site on an elevated hillside. Approximately 95% of this SLA is within the ZTV for the Proposed Development, indicating that the Proposed Development has a visual influence of an extensive area of this SLA. Panoramic views over the landscape, including southward and westward views across to the Site are important elements of this SLA. Despite its distance, within its southern extent only the settled valley floor landscape at Abersychan separate this SLA from the upland area of the Site. The Proposed Development would be seen where visible beyond and in the context of an industrial settled valley floor landscape. Effects of the Proposed Development on this SLA would be medium in magnitude 'Partial alteration to one or more key characteristics', **Moderate** adverse at most, and **Significant**.

6.11.18 A further three Torfaen SLAs (SLA A- Llandegfedd Reservoir; SLA B – South Eastern Lowlands; and SLA D – South West Uplands) are located south-east of the Site within the ZTV. SLA D – South West Uplands is located c. 3km south-east of the Site at its closest point, and extends c. 6km southwards. Primary Landscape Qualities are identified as "*An area of upland hillside and scarp slopes*" 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*." Important geological features and historic landscapes are noted but with respect to visual and sensory aspects no views or vistas are identified. The ZTV of the Proposed Development only covers c. 20%, of this SLA, generally confined to a linear ridge along Mynydd Henllys where panoramic views across the landscape are available. The Proposed Development, where visible, would be seen as new tall turbine elements on open hilltops in the distance and a small part of wide panoramic views. As minor alteration to one key element, overall, the magnitude of change would not exceed low. The level of effect is **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

6.11.19 SLA A (Llandegfedd Reservoir) is a small SLA located c. 7km south-east of the Site with approximately 80% within the ZTV of the Proposed Development. It is described as "*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…* [and comprises] *an important geological outcrop that extends eastwards into Monmouthshire.*" Actual visibility to the Site

is much less than that suggested by the ZTV, with views screened or highly filtered by intervening woodland and roadside verges. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen as a cluster of new vertical elements on the skyline in a small part of wide panoramic views. The primary focus of views, however, is east and south away from the direction of the Site. Effects of the Proposed Development on the SLA overall would be low in magnitude **Moderate/Minor** (Not Significant) and adverse with the introduction of new turbines on the distant skyline.

6.11.20 The final Torfaen SLA, SLA B – South Eastern Lowlands is also located c. 7.5km south-east of the Site at its closest point and described as an "*extensive area of open, rolling lowland agricultural landscape which abuts the eastern edge of Cwmbran area and Ponthir in the south.*" Key qualities include "*a quiet, secluded area to the east of Cwmbran with scattered settlements pattern*" and in terms of visual character, it identifies that "*part of the SLA has a strong visual unity eastwards into Monmouthshire*" (away from the direction of the Site). The ZTV is fragmented across this SLA covering approximately 50% in total. Given the distance from the Site and separation by intervening settled valley features as well as the nature of its key features, it is judged that effects from the Proposed Development on the SLA would not exceed a low magnitude of change. The level of effect is **Moderate/Minor** neutral and Not Significant.

Caerphilly SLAs

6.11.21 Five Caerphilly SLAs extend within the 15km study area of the Site and the Proposed Development's ZTV (blade tip). The closest of which is Mynyddislwyn (SLA A) located just over 5km south-west of the Site at its closest point, extending c. 5km southwards and c. 3km from west to east. It is described as "*a small, but important open upland area surrounded by extensive plantations.*" Visual and sensory components are noted to include an "*… open ridge … surrounded on two sides by 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.*" No important views or vistas were listed. Approximately 50% of this SLA lies within the ZTV of the Proposed Development, however, woodland stands and established tree belts and hedgerows tend to screen or filter northward views towards the Site across the landscape from accessible locations, where adjacent built form is the main focal point. Indirect effects resulting from the Proposed Development upon this SLA would be very low magnitude, **Minor** (Not Significant) and neutral.

6.11.22 The North Caerphilly SLA (SLA B) is located in the same direction of view from the Site (south-west) beyond the Mynyddislwyn SLA. A minor extent c. 10% of the North Caerphilly SLA (along its northern boundary) lies within the ZTV of the Proposed Development with potential to incur indirect effects. It lies c. 9km south-west of the Site at its closest point and is described as "*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* [away from the Site] *giving it an open feel*", and notes that "*Views, from the countryside out onto urban areas and carboniferous plantations can detract from the value of the area*". There are also existing wind turbines present within 200m of the SLA on the eastern slopes of Mynydd Bach forming part of the existing visual and perceptual context of the SLA. Given the distance and limited extent of visibility the magnitude of change of the Proposed Development on the SLA would be very low. The level of effect would be **Minor** neutral and Not Significant.

6.11.23 Caerphilly SLA F (Mynydd Eglwysilian), located west of SLA B and c. 12km south-west of the Site at its nearest point. It notes "*The upland ridge is open with panoramic and sometimes dramatic views over upland and adjoining valleys …. Some visual clutter of pylons slightly detracts from this otherwise wild / exposed typical upland area with a strong sense of place*". Approximately 40% of the SLA lies within the ZTV of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would be seen as distant turbines in a small part of wide panoramic views. Existing Pylons and wind turbines are already

present within this SLA shaping its visual and perceptual context. Effects on the SLA from the Proposed Development would be low magnitude at most with a 'minor loss alteration to one or more key landscape characteristics; additional elements may not be uncharacteristic within existing landscape', **Moderate/Minor,** Not Significant and neutral as tall elements pylons and turbines are part of the existing baseline character.

6.11.24 SLA E Gelligaer is located c. 8.5km south-west of the Site at its closest point on elevated land with c. 60% of the SLA within the ZTV of the Proposed Development. It is described as "*An open, extensive, exposed and an increasingly rare upland landscape in South East Wales*" and its visual and sensory qualities are noted as "*distinct … 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…*". Of relevance to this assessment it notes "*The eastern flank of the SLA is typified by more rolling landscape pattern interspersed with woodland blocks, spinneys and hedgerows*" and "*Wind noise is a dominant factor, which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness*." Views north towards the Brecon Beacons would not be affected by the Proposed Development, whilst existing wind turbines are present and part of eastwards views towards the Site. The Proposed Development would be seen as additional tall turbine elements on hilltops in the distance in a small part of wide panoramic views. The magnitude of change is deemed to be low. The level of effect is considered, **Moderate/Minor**, neutral and Not Significant with the wind turbines reflecting the exposed and vast nature of such sites.

6.11.25 Finally, effects of the Proposed Development on the Upper Rhymney Valley SLA (Caerphilly SLA D) located c. 12.5km north-west of the Site would be **negligible** with only a minimal extent of the SLA within the 15km Study Area ZTV of the Proposed Development.

Caerphilly VILLS

6.11.26 Three Visually Important Local Landscapes are identified within the 15km study area of the Site and crossover with the ZTV. Visually Important Local Landscapes are defined in the Caerphilly CBC LDP as "*non-statutory designations that seek to protect the distinctive features or characteristics of the visual and sensory landscape of the County Borough and how we perceive and respond to the landscape around us*." It notes that VILLS have been identified "*using only the visual and sensory layer of LANDMAP"* and as such, risk double counting such assessments but are covered here for completeness. With Regard to VILLS Policy NH2 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. Development proposals should demonstrate that these features of the visual and sensory LANDMAP aspect layer are conserved and, where appropriate enhanced for the benefit of the visual landscape*."

6.11.27 NH2.3 - Abercarn is the closest VILL to the Site, located c. 1km south of the Site. Its primary landscape qualities are noted as:

- *"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*."

6.11.28 Key Management Policies identified include [inter alia]:

- *"Seek to conserve and enhance the existing field patterns and sense of openness …*
- *Preserve and enhance the pastures, hedgerows and woodlands to protect and enhance the visual quality of the VILL …"*

6.11.29 The Proposed Development would be visible from approximately 40% of the VILL as indicated by the overlap with the Proposed Development's ZTV, with actual visibility further fragmented by areas of woodland. Existing pylons traverse the area as noted in the VILLS description, providing an existing cluttered context to the area. Where visible, the Proposed Development would add vertical elements to views north out of the VILL but would not alter the character fundamentally, nor conflict with the management policies identified. It is also noted that the VILL description recognises that in LANDMAP "*The overall visual and sensory layer has the evaluation of moderate, which is classified as locally important.*" Promoted viewpoints are identified on OS Maps within the south of this VILL, however, the Site is not visible from these viewpoints which are generally orientated south and screened to the north by woodland. Effects of the Proposed Development on this VILL would not exceed a medium Magnitude for a localised (fragmented) area of the VILL, leading to **Moderate /Minor** adverse level of effect which is Not Significant overall.

6.11.30 NH2.2 Manmoel is the next VILL by distance from the Site, located c. 5km west of the Site. Approximately 50% of this VILL lies within the ZTV of the Proposed Development. It is described as *"… 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."*

6.11.31 Primary landscape qualities also include *"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."* Additionally, due to the distance between the VILL and the Site, intervening hills form some landscape separation between the two areas, reducing potential changes to the VILLS immediate context and setting. Some vertical elements, including a wind turbine are already present within the VILL, ensuring that this type of development is not uncharacteristic of uplands in the area. Overall magnitude of change would be low. The level of effect would be **Moderate/Minor** neutral and Not Significant.

6.11.32 Beyond the Manmoel VILL is the Northern Rhymney Valley VILL c. 9km west of the Site. It is split into two parcels around Abertysswg. Only a small extent (c. 20%) of the VILL is located within the ZTV for the Proposed Development, restricted to upland ridges. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen as a cluster of vertical elements on a distant hillside and form a small part of much wider panoramic views where turbines and pylons are appreciable features of upland areas. Due to the distance and limited extent of the VILL where the Proposed Development would be visible, effects on the VILL would not exceed a **Moderate/Minor** level of effect (Not Significant), and neutral.

Summary of Effects on Local Landscape Designations

6.11.33 A total of 22 SLAs and five VILLs are located within the 15km Study Area of the Site and potential effects for each are summarised in **Table 6.21** below. Of these, three SLAs crossed into the Site and would incur both direct and indirect effects from the Proposed Development. Significant overall landscape effects were assessed for these three SLAs (namely Blaenau Gwent CBC SLA D - Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James and SLA E - St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides, and TCBC SLA H - Western Uplands). A further Torfaen SLA (SLA F – Eastern Uplands) was also found to incur significant effects primarily due to the extensive visibility of the Proposed Development from

almost the entirety of this SLA. No other SLAs or VILLSs would be likely to incur significant effects from the Proposed Development

Table 6.21 Summary of effects on local landscape designations

Local Landscape Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude of effect	Predicted Level of effect
Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs:			
A) Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: **Moderate Significant** and adverse.
B) Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor**, Not Significant and adverse.
C) Beaufort Common	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low – very low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Minor** Not Significant and adverse.
D) Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James	High	Direct effects – Low Indirect effects – High	Direct effects – **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant. Indirect effects – **Major/Moderate**, adverse. Overall effects: **Major/Moderate, Significant** and adverse.
E) St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides	High	Direct effects - Low Indirect effects – High	Direct effects: **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant. Indirect effects: **Major/Moderate**, adverse. Overall effects**: Major/Moderate Significant** and adverse.
F) Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant and adverse.
G) Trefi and Garnlydan Surrounds	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low - very low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Minor** Not Significant and adverse.
H) Cefn Manmoel	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant and adverse.
Torfaen CBC SLAs			
A) Llandegfedd Reservoir	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant and adverse.
B)_South Eastern Lowlands	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant and neutral.
D) South West Uplands	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant and adverse.

Local Landscape Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude of effect	Predicted Level of effect
E) Blaenavon Heritage Landscape	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant.
F) Eastern Uplands	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate Significant** and adverse at worst.
G) Afon Lwyd Valley	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor**, Not significant, adverse.
H) Western Uplands	High	Direct effects - Low Indirect effects – High	Direct effects: **Moderate/Minor**, adverse and Not Significant. Indirect effects: **Major/Moderate,** adverse and **Significant**.
Caerphilly CBC SLAs			
A) Myynddislwyn	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Very low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Minor** Not Significant and neutral.
B) North Caerphilly	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Very low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Minor** Not Significant and neutral.
D) Upper Rhymney Valley	High	Imperceptible	Negligible
E) Gelligaer	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not significant, and neutral.
F) Mynydd Eglwysilian	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant and neutral.
Caerphilly CBC VILLs			
A) Manmoel	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant and neutral.
B) Abercarn	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium - Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects**: Moderate Significant** at worst .
D) Northern Rhymney Valley	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: NA Indirect effects: **Moderate/Minor** Not Significant, and neutral.

6.12 Assessment of visual effects

Overview

6.12.1 Visual receptors were identified as part of the baseline (**Appendix 6B**) and those scoped in for further consideration are summarised below. The assessment methodology adopted for the visual assessment is set out in **Appendix 6A**.

6.12.2 A selection of PVPs were agreed with statutory consultees. Wireframes and photomontages (the locations of which were also agreed with consultees) of the Proposed Development which have been assessed, represent a range of views for a variety of visual receptors identified within the ZTV to tip (also referred to as Blade tip ZTV).

6.12.3 PVP locations are illustrated on **Figure 6.11** and the PVPs are illustrated at **Figure 6.12.**

6.12.4 The receptor groups have been assessed in addition to, and aided by, 30 specific PVPs, and the accompanying appendices at **Appendix 6I** to **6M** provide detailed visual assessments on PVPs and chosen receptor groups.

6.12.5 A summary of the visual effects for the PVP assessment, and each receptor group is provided below.

Assessment of Visual Effects from Photoviewpoints

6.12.6 30 PVPS were considered further as part of the LVIA, and of those, 11 were considered as part of the cumulative visual assessment and the detailed assessment is provided in **Appendix 6I**.

6.12.7 The ZTV to tip of the Proposed Development overlaps with 28.5% of the 26km study area. The PVP assessment is a representative selection of the type of views available towards the Site from areas within the ZTV to tip. Open and/or direct close range to long distance views are available due to the elevation of the Site itself, and the formation of the South Wales Valleys in which it sits. Other types of views such as framed, filtered, direct and oblique views have been identified from parts of the Study Area within the ZTV.

6.12.8 Recreational users of the BBNP and the Wye Valley AONB are represented, as are views from rights of way and areas of open access land, settlements, country parks and roads. The sensitivity of the visual receptors range from very high (e.g. scenic viewpoints, PRoW or OAL in nationally designated landscapes such as the BBNP) to low (e.g. in settled environments).

6.12.9 Overall, the viewpoint analysis found that when the Proposed Development was considered in isolation, of the 30 PVPs assessed, 18 PVPs were found to have significant effects as a result of the proposed development. Within 0-5km of the Site the impacts range from **Major**, adverse and **Significant** to no effect. Naturally, the focus of the visual assessment on areas where intervisibility was theoretically possible, therefore areas within the blade tip ZTV to assume worst case. The ZTVs illustrated in the figures are based on bare earth modelling only, therefore, the potential intervening effects of vegetation and built form is not reflected.

6.12.10 Within the 5-10km, impacts of the Proposed Development alone range from **Major** to **Minor/Negligible** adverse and **Significant** to Not Significant. There are areas with no affects within this band which were not represented by the PVP assessment.

6.12.11 The impacts of the Proposed Development alone found within the 10-15km of the Site range from **Moderate**, adverse and **Significant** to no effect. The impacts found within the 15-26km of the Site range from **Moderate** to **Negligible** adverse and **Significant** to Not Significant. There are views within this band with no effects which were not represented by the PVP assessment. The significant

effects are largely due to the very high sensitivity of nationally designated landscapes with recognised views.

6.12.12 The cumulative visual analysis focussed on the LVIA PVPs previously assessed as Not Significant where the Proposed Development alone is considered. Furthermore, two scenarios were evaluated as part of the cumulative assessment. The method and summary of the findings is expanded upon in **Section 6.13**.

6.12.13 The summary of effects is provided alone with the LVIA PVPs in **Table 6.22** below.

Table 6.22 Summary assessment of visual effects from PVPs

PVP	PVP Assessment of Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) only				Cumulative Assessment	
	Sensitivity	**Magnitude of effect**	**Level of effect**	**Significance**	**Scenario A ML + Operational & Consented**	**Scenario B Scenario A + Wind farms in Planning & in Scoping.**
Within 0-5km						
PVP1	High	Very High	**Major**	**Significant**		
PVP2	Low	High	**Moderate/Minor**	**Significant**		
PVP3	High	Very High	**Major**	**Significant**		
PVP4	High	Very High	**Major**	**Significant**		
PVP5	Medium	High	**Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP6	High	Very High	**Major**	**Significant**		
PVP7	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant	No Change	**Minor** Not Significant
PVP8	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**		
PVP9	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant	No change	**Moderate** and **Significant**
PVP10	High	High	**Major/ Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP11	Medium	High	**Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP12	High	High	**Major/ Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP13	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant	**Negligible**	**Negligible**
PVP14	Low	High	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant	No Change	No Change
PVP15	High	Very High	**Major**	**Significant**		
PVP16	High	High	**Major/ Moderate**	**Significant**		
Within 5-10km:						

PVP	PVP Assessment of Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) only				Cumulative Assessment	
	Sensitivity	**Magnitude of effect**	**Level of effect**	**Significance**	**Scenario A ML + Operational & Consented**	**Scenario B Scenario A + Wind farms in Planning & in Scoping.**
PVP17	Low	Very Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant	No Change	No Change
PVP18	High	High	**Major/ Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP19	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant	**Moderate/Minor** Not Significant	**Moderate Significant**
PVP20	Low	Medium	**Minor**	Not Significant	**Minor** Not Significant	**Moderate Significant**
PVP21	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP22	Very High	High	**Major**	**Significant**		
Within10-15km:						
PVP23	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP24	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant	**Moderate/Minor** Not Significant	**Moderate Significant**
PVP25	Very High	Very Low	**Negligible**	Not Significant	**Negligible**	**Negligible**
Within 15-26km:						
PVP 26	Very High	Low	**Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP 27	Very High	Low	**Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP 28	Very High	Low	**Moderate**	**Significant**		
PVP 29	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant	No Change	**Moderate Significant**
PVP 30	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant	**Moderate/Minor** Not Significant	**Moderate Significant**

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)

6.12.14 Residential receptors within 2km of the nearest turbine proposed have been considered further as part of the LVIA. The methodology and the detailed assessment of residential visual amenity is provided in **Appendix 6M**.

6.12.15 85 property or property groups (ID's) are described and assessed in accordance with best practice guidance and these property or property groups within the visual amenity study area are shown on **Figure 6.22** of **Appendix 6B.**

6.12.16 Desktop analysis initially identified 2,521 residential addresses registered within the 2km study area. An analytical study was undertaken to compare outlook, distance from site and orientation of

properties in proximity to each other. Pairs, rows or settlements deemed to be sufficiently similar to group or cluster for the purposes of the RVAA to keep the scope of the assessment proportionate.

6.12.17 A selection of PVPs have been prepared to illustrate the types of views from the main settlements within the 2km study area. RVAA PVP locations are shown on **Figure 6.13** and RVAA PVPs are shown at **Figure 6.14**. These PVPs are visual aids only and these have not been assessed as part of the LVIA.

6.12.18 There are a number of properties within the 2km study area that are financially involved within the scheme. Participating landowner ID numbers are as follows: D1, D2, D35, D51, D71 and D85. Residential visual amenity has been considered for these properties, however, due to their financial involvement, the detailed assessment of effects for these properties stops at Stage 3 of the RVAA process.

6.12.19 The summary findings show that of the 85 property/property groups assessed, 57 (IDs) would experience **Significant** adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Development. The levels of effect ranged from **Major** to **Moderate**, all of which are considered significant. There are 23 IDs that would not experience significant effects within the 2km Study Area; two more ID's would experience no change (D17 and D36); and one was scoped out as it was a derelict property (D9).

6.12.20 Of the property/property groups assessed within the 2km Study Area, none were considered to breach the RVAA threshold.

Assessment of Visual Effects from Settlements

6.12.21 Settlements within 2-15km have been considered further as part of the LVIA and the detailed assessment for each is provided in **Appendix 6J**.

6.12.22 The summary of visual effects from settlements is set out in **Table 6.23.**

Table 6.23 Summary of visual effects from Settlements

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Settlements between 2 – 5km				
Abersychan	High	High	**Major/Moderate** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	**Significant**
Pontypool	High	Medium	**Moderate** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	**Significant**
Crumlin	High	High	**Major/Moderate** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	**Significant**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Pen-tywn/Trinant	High	High	**Major/Moderate** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	**Significant**
Swffryd	High	High	**Major/Moderate** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	**Significant**
Newbridge	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Oakdale	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Abertillery	Medium	High	**Moderate** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	**Significant**
Settlements between 5 – 15km				
New Inn	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Glascoed	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Monkswood	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Penpedairheol (Monmouthshire)	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term	Not Significant

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
			Reversible Indirect Adverse	
Blaina	High	Very High	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Nantyglo	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Manmoel	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Markham	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Argoed	High	Very Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Bargoed	High	Very Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Penpedairheol (Caerphilly)	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Blackwood	Medium	Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Pontrllanfraith	Medium	Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Maesycwmmer	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Gilfach	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Tir-y-berth	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Croesyceiliog	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Settlements between 10km – 15km				
Ystrad Mynach	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Nelson	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Hengoed and Cefn Hengoed	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Gelligaer and Penybryn	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible** Long-term	Not Significant

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
			Reversible Indirect Adverse	
Tredegar	High	Very Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Beaufort	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Brynmawr	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Betts Newydd	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Gwehelog	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Llantrisant	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Llanllowell	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Tredunnock	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Llandegveth	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Roughton	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Llanhennock	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Caerleon	High	Very Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Ponthir	High	Very Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant
Usk	High	Very Low	**Minor** Long-term Reversible Indirect Adverse	Not Significant

6.12.23 The visual assessment upon settlements finds that significant effects would be primarily limited to locations in close proximity to the Proposed Development. No significant effects were identified upon settlements falling within the ZTV between 5 -10km and 10 – 15km ranges. Within the 2 – 5km range, significant adverse visual effects that would be long-term and reversible are identified for settlements of Pontypool, Abersychan, Crumlin, Pen-twyn/Trinant, Swffryd and Abertillery, however, it should be noted that these effects would occur on limited parts of each settlement falling within the ZTV and not a wholescale effect upon an entire settlement.

Assessment of Visual Effects at Night-time

6.12.24 Night-time effects upon specific viewpoints within 5km and one additional view (**PVP 22**) from The Blorenge, taken approximately 9.49km distant, as a representative night-time view from the BBNP. These locations have been selected to cover perspectives from the north, south, east and west towards the Site and the majority are taken where receptors are likely to be at night (roads and

settlements). With regard to users of PRoW, it is likely that the majority of receptors are no longer active on these routes after dark, particularly away from urban areas and light sources which provide a sense of security.

6.12.25 These night-time views have been considered further as part of the LVIA and the detailed assessment for each is provided in **Appendix 6K**.

6.12.26 PVP locations were selected through consultation with TCBC, NRW and BBNPA to capture baseline light during dark hours.

6.12.27 The locations of the night-time views are illustrated on **Figure 6.13.** There would be no significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development on the night-time views assessed.

6.12.28 A summary of visual effects at night-time is summarised below:

Photoviewpoint 6 - Public Footpath in Pantygasseg to the east of Mountain View looking north-west towards the Site

6.12.29 The view is taken from the north-eastern edge of this linear settlement and represents a worst-case scenario of views. Existing night-time view comprises a well-lit foreground provided by nearby street lighting. However, lighting here is very localised to the streets through the settlement, with darker landscape located a short distance north of the Site. The hills of which the Site is located upon are unlit, with no visible light sources from dwellings or other structures, whilst glow appears in the backdrop, likely as a result of light sources from settlements to the north of the Site. The introduction of the turbines would introduce five turbine hub lights to the night-time view, which with the immediate lighting along the road through Pantygasseg and from dwellings, the magnitude of change would be considered to be medium. This medium change would merit an effect of **Moderate/Minor** that would be long-term, reversible and adverse that would be Not Significant.

Photoviewpoint 11 - Llanerch Lane in Pen-tywn on the edge of settlement looking north-east towards the Site

6.12.30 The baseline view comprises well-lit views of the settlement of Brynithel and Llanhilleth, of which linear lighting across streets across the valley bottom and sides provide a bright focal point within the view. There are no light sources further upslope in the direction of the Site, whilst the hills themselves appear as a silhouette against a backdrop of light glow, likely from valley settlements to the east. Eight of the turbine hub lights would be visible within the view above existing static light sources which would appear as small red lights. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be low, which would merit a **Minor** effect that would be long-term, reversible, adverse but Not Significant.

Photoviewpoint 12 - Torfaen Trail and Woodside Road in Trevethin looking west towards the Site

6.12.31 Night-time views from the edge of Trevethin were assessed with reference to Night-Time Photomontage from **PVP 12**. Baseline views include street lighting, lighting from housing and commercial areas which exhibit a glow across the view. The hills beyond are lit up as a light silhouette, likely from light sources from the valley settlement of Abertillery beyond. There are very few light sources upon the valley side themselves, with a handful of dwellings providing limited light source. The change to the view would comprise seven turbine hub lights against an existing glowing backdrop provided by the settlements of Abertillery, Blackwood, Pontllanfraith, Bargoed and Ystrad Mynach whilst the foreground is already well lit. The magnitude of this change is considered to be low, meriting a **Minor** effect that would be long-term, reversible and adverse. The effect would be Not Significant.

Night-time effects on the Brecon Beacons Dark Skies Reserve

6.12.32 The BBNP is recognised as an 'International Dark Sky Reserve' although the location of **PVP 22** itself is not located within the 'Dark Sky Core' (the darkest) zone but it does fall within the 'Intrinsic Rural Darkness and Buffer' zone. Sensitivity of receptors at this location are considered to be 'very high' considering the landscape and dark skies designations.

6.12.33 **PVP 22** is taken from The Blorenge Summit (BBNP) looking south-west towards the Site. The baseline night-time view towards the Proposed Development comprises a dark skyline with some distant static light sources visible at Abersychan, as well as night glow emitted from settlements within the vicinity of the Site that creates a visible horizon of hilly landform.

6.12.34 The magnitude of change brought about by the Proposed Development would introduce seven lights at some distance to the centre of this view that would be very low considering there is already static light sources and glow in this direction. The very low change combined with a very high sensitivity would result in a **Moderate/Minor** effect that would be long-term, reversible, adverse and Not Significant.

6.12.35 As discussed above, no other night-time PVPS were requested by consultees. **PVP 16** (c. 4.49km from the Site) is the nearest PVP from the BBNP which is taken from the boundary of the National Park. The day-time view illustrates that the proposals would be clearly in combination with settled valleys, therefore the proposals would not be the primary light source in the view. Development would be visible above existing static light sources within the view, it is considered there would not be any more than a very low magnitude of change, which when combined with a very high sensitivity, merits a **Moderate/Minor**, long-term, reversible, adverse effect that is Not Significant.

6.12.36 After The Blorenge (**PVP 22**, c. 9.4km from the Site), the next nearest PVP within the National Park to the Site is **PVP 25** (from Mynydd Llangatwg trig point). The daytime Photomontage indicates that only the blade tips of two turbines would be visible from this location. As such, as no hubs are visible, it is expected there would be no change to the night-time from lighting as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.12.37 Elsewhere within the National Park, daytime views are illustrated by **PVPs** and Photomontages **16, 26, 27, 28** and **30**. With regard to **PVP 26** (Sugar Loaf), seven hubs may be visible at some distance (c. 16.3km) from the location at night. Abergavenny settlement within the mid-distance would be the primary light source within the view at night, whilst the turbines would form a very small component (c.5° horizontal FoV) within the view that would not extend much further above landform. Whilst the lighting from the Proposed Development would be visible above existing static light sources within the view, it is considered there would not be any more than a very low magnitude of change, which when combined with a very high sensitivity, merits a **Moderate/Minor**, long-term, reversible, adverse effect that is Not Significant.

6.12.38 **PVP 27** (Mynydd Llangynidr) is likely to experience similar effects to **PVP 26** at night, with approximately seven hubs visible during the daytime Photomontage. As with **PVP 26**, a number of existing static light sources are contained within the view at a much closer distance than the Proposed Development. Whilst the lighting from the Proposed Development would be visible above existing static light sources within the view, it is considered there would not be any more than a very low magnitude of change, which when combined with a very high sensitivity, merits a **Moderate/Minor**, long-term, reversible, adverse effect that is Not Significant.

6.12.39 With regard to night-time visual effects from **PVP 28** (Cefn yr Ystrad, c. 18.7km from the Site) and **PVP 30** (Craig y Fan Ddu, c. 24.5km from the Site), no settlement is visible within daytime views. However, the urban conurbation of Ebbw Vale falls between both PVP locations and the Proposed Development and there is likely to be some night glow emitted from these settlements in views

towards the Site. In both instances, eight lights from the hubs of the Proposed Development would be visible above existing light sources within the view. These would be very small and occupy a very small proportion (c.3° horizontal FoV) of the view given the distance. It is therefore considered there would not be any more than a very low magnitude of change, which when combined with a very high sensitivity, leads to a **Moderate/Minor**, long-term, reversible, adverse effect that is Not Significant.

Assessment of visual effects from promoted routes and the National Cycle Network

6.12.40 Promoted routes within 26km and national cycle routes within 15km have been considered further as part of the LVIA and the detailed assessment for each is provided in **Appendix 6L**.

6.12.41 Six promoted routes within the 15km were identified and **Figure 6.18** shows the distribution of promoted routes across the Study Area, overlaid by the ZTVs (to hub height and blade tip). Further modelling was used to calculate the percentage of the routes' overlapping with ZTV to provide greater understanding of the proportion of any route potentially affected by the Proposed Development as worst-case. The closest promoted route – The Torfaen Trail – is located c. 1km north-east of the nearest turbine at its closest point but does cross the proposed access route to the development. No other promoted routes pass within 5km of the nearest turbine with the potential for close range views.

6.12.42 Users of promoted routes are ascribed a high to very high sensitivity (the latter is where they passed through nationally designated landscapes). The percentage of each route within the ZTV (blade tip) ranges from 3% (Cistercian Way) to 44% (Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk) and the magnitude of change to respective promoted routes ranged from imperceptible to low.

6.12.43 There would be no significant effects to the promoted routes assessed herein as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.12.44 Users of the NCN routes are also assessed within **Appendix 6L**. These are considered of high value as national routes, albeit many run through urban areas and travel at speed to render experiences more transient. Generally, NCN routes within 5km of the Site fall within the valleys, therefore users would not gain views towards the Site from these parts of the routes. Similarly, beyond 5km of the Site, the NCN routes rarely fall within the ZTV, they generally follow the pattern and distribution of the settled valley bottoms. Furthermore, there are few occasions where the routes of the NCN are directed towards the Site. Overall effects on users of NCN would experience imperceptible to very low magnitudes of change as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.12.45 There would be no significant effects to NCN groups assessed herein as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.12.46 As visual receptors, effects on all promoted routes and the cycle network would be long term (reversible), and adverse where perceptible.

6.12.47 The summary of visual effects from promoted routes and Sustrans NCN is set out in **Table 6.24.**

Table 6.24 Summary of visual effects from promoted routes and the NCN

Route / NCN group	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Torfaen Trail	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Cistercian Way	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Usk Valley Walk	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant

Route / NCN group	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
Rhymney Valley Ridge Way	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Beacons Way	Very high	Very low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Offa's Dyke Path (National Trail)	Very high	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Sustrans National Cycle Network within 5km	High	Very low to	**Minor**	Not Significant
Sustrans National Cycle Network Beyond 5km	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant

Assessment of visual effects from Country Parks and Historic Parks and Gardens

6.12.48 Country parks and HPGs within 15km that have been considered further in the LVIA are assessed below.

Country Parks

6.12.49 Country Parks are described by Lle Geo-Portal as an area within the countryside environment designated for public enjoyment and recreation. They are not necessarily designated in recognition of, or for the protection of landscape quality, however, their use as accessible and attractive spaces means that they hold a high local value and are generally considered of high sensitivity. The distribution of country parks within the wider study area is shown on **Figure 6.3**.

6.12.50 No country parks are likely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development as outlined below.

6.12.51 Pen-y-fan Pond Country Park is the closest and only Country Park within 5km of the Site, located c. 3.3km west of the Site within Caerphilly CBC. **PVP 13** taken from within the Country Park shows the view towards the Proposed Development would be greatly screened/filtered by existing woodland fringe vegetation. As an important and locally valued designation, it is of high value and sensitivity. Overall magnitude of change is considered low overall. The level of effect is **Moderate/Minor** adverse at and Not Significant.

6.12.52 Also within the south- western quadrant of the 15km Study Area, there are a further four Country Parks including Parc Coertir Bargod, Parc Cwm Darran, Parc Penallta, and Sirhowy Valley. They are generally located within the low-lying valley systems. As such, a very nominal amount of each of Parc Coertir Bargod, Parc Cwm Darran, Parc Penallta overlap with the ZTV of the Proposed Development, and actual visibility is likely to be further reduced by intervening vegetation and built form not captured within the ZTV modelling. The level of effect is likely to be **Negligible** and Not Significant.

6.12.53 A slightly wider but still small area of the Sirhowy Valley Country Park falls within the ZTV of the Proposed Development as it rises up from Cwmfelinfach to Mynydd y Grug, however, this is a highly wooded area of the Country Park and no views of the Proposed Development are likely. Existing wind turbines are also present adjacent to this Country Park and are considered part of its context. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible and lead to a minor change on a small part of this Country Park at worst.

6.12.54 North-west of the Site, Brynbach Country Park traverses the boundary between Blaenau Gwent CBC and Caerphilly CBC to the north and west of Tredegar. It is outside the ZTV (blade tip) of the

Proposed Development and no views would be possible. As such it would not be affected by the Proposed Development.

6.12.55 Clytha Park, located c. 12.8km north-east of the Site is predominantly outside the ZTV, and comprises a well-treed country estate landscape south of the busy A40. Due to the nature of established trees within the landscape and tree belts, woodland stands flanking roadsides as well as the topography views are highly limited and the magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would be very low, **Minor** and Not Significant.

6.12.56 A summary of visual effects from Country Parks is set out in **Table 6.25**.

Table 6.25 Assessment of visual effects from Country Parks

Country Park Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of effect	Level of effect	Significance
Receptors within 5km				
Pen-y-fan Pond	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Receptors between 5-15km				
Parc Coertir Bargod,	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Parc Cwm Darran,	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Parc Penallta,	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Sirhowy Valley	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Brynbach	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Clytha Park	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant

Historic Parks and Gardens

6.12.57 Users of HPGs are likely to have high sensitivity. Susceptibility to change may vary considerably depending on their reasons for designation. Such reasons may or may not include outward views or vistas which would be the primary, if not only, element of concern for the Proposed Development. There are a number of HPG within 15km, including two to the north-west, 12 to north-east, 10 south-east and four to the south-west as shown on **Figure 6.3**.

6.12.58 Pontypool Park is located within 5km of the Site, and three other HPGs are situated between 5-10km of the Site. Each are considered below with respect to likely effects, and the importance of views as identified within their descriptions.

6.12.59 Pontypool Park is a grade II* Registered Park and Garden (CADW Ref PGW(Gt)26(TOR)) located c. 3.3km east of the Site, occupying *"…an area of steeply undulating ground to the north of the centre of Pontypool."* It is summarised as *"… registered for its early nineteenth-century landscape park which later became a public park. Parkland features include an outstanding and well-preserved shell hermitage and an unusual twin ice-house. There is also a mid-nineteenth-century arboretum, the American Gardens."* It notes that "*in the second half of the eighteenth century, Capel Hanbury built a folly on the ridge top to the north of the park." Rebuilt in the 1990s 'Significant Views' are identified from the folly (which is separated from the main area of the park) by way of "panoramic views in all directions."*

6.12.60 A large extent of Pontypool Park overlaps with the ZTV of the Proposed Development, however, established vegetation and built form along its western edges (and indeed woodland within it)

provide good containment to the Park and Gardens and limit views towards the Site from lower areas. Views of the Proposed Development would be available from areas of more open and higher ground including the folly, where the magnitude of change would be elevated due the extent to which the proposals would be seen in west facing views.

6.12.61 The presence of the turbines in the various views from the park, including from the detached area around the folly, would result in tall, new built elements in the view where such structures do not presently exist, although localised views across the park's interior to its various features would not be affected. **Chapter 7** provides specific assessment of heritage components including setting of Pontypool Park. Of relevance to this assessment, it finds that given that the views to the Proposed Development would not include any of its key historic assets, and the Park's essential setting would be unaffected, the change to views out to the west from the Park would only result in a limited depreciation of the park's aesthetic quality, distracting to only a small degree from an appreciation of its character as a rustic Victorian park. From a visual perspective, it is anticipated the magnitude of change would be high with a 'notable alteration/addition to one or more key characteristics of the baseline, limited to a small area of the Park and generally very low and 'barely discernible' amongst the vegetated areas. Overall, the magnitude of change would be low for visitors to Pontypool Park and the level of effect on views from Pontypool Park overall is considered to be **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

6.12.62 Between 5-15km of the Site, the two HPG north-west of the Site are outside of the blade tip ZTV of the Proposed Development and would not be affected by the proposed development. There are numerous HPGs to the north-east of the Site, with most outside of the ZTV to blade tip. Only three cross within the ZTV to blade tip of the Proposed Development (Brynderwen, Bettwys Newydd; Clytha Park; and Llanarth Court) and primarily in areas where just one-two turbines are potentially visible.

6.12.63 Brynderwen, Bettwys Newydd (Cadw Ref PGW(Gt)12(MON)) is a Grade II listed HPG and described as "*The landscape is rolling, with a steep drop to the west of the garden to the river flood plain. The park is now farmed as pasture but there are a good number of isolated mature oaks and limes and four large mature wellingtonias, and a large clump of mixed trees south of the drive*". It notes "*its fine position on the east bank of the River Usk, above the river floodplain, affords views extending out over the surrounding scenery.*" Distant views of the Proposed Development (c. 11.5km from the nearest turbine) would be possible from open areas within fields over and above intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change to the character of the HPG would be low at most with 'minor alteration to one or more key landscape characteristics.' Effects would not exceed **Moderate/Minor**, adverse and Not Significant.

6.12.64 Clytha Park and Llanarth Court HPGs are in the same direction from the Site as Brynderwen, Bettwys Newydd HPG and both straddle the edge of the ZTV where only one-two turbines are shown to be potentially visible. Clytha Park HPG is also a designated Country Park with less than c. 30% within the ZTV of the Proposed Development and as assessed for its Country Park designation, views to the Proposed Development would be highly limited and the magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would be very low, **Minor** and Not Significant.

6.12.65 Llanarth Court HPG is located c. 13km to the north-east of the Site. Of relevance to the Proposed Development, important views from this HPG are identified as "*views south-east across the terraced gardens, the ornamental parkland and the countryside beyond. From the north front there are views north-west to the Black Mountains.*" None of the views noted are south-west (towards the Site) and effects (where visible- less than 50% of the HPG) of the Proposed Development would result from a very low magnitude of change (barely discernible alteration to key components) and would be **Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

6.12.66 South-east of the Site between 5-15km, only Cefn Ila HPG located just west of Usk and c. 11km from the Site overlaps with the ZTV to any notable extent. It is situated on rolling landscape and well contained by a large woodland to the west which forms part of the HPG. Due to the topography and well-established intervening vegetation, views of the Proposed Development would be greatly restricted, and largely **Imperceptible** and Not significant. The remainder of HPG within the south-east is located either entirely outside of the ZTV or a very nominal amount within it, where any effects would be **Negligible**.

6.12.67 Maes Manor Hotel HPG, located south-west of the Site corresponds with LANDMAPs CYNONHL426 Historic Landscape Aspect Area and although c. 70% lies within the ZTV, existing vegetation on the ground, including established roadside hedgerow trees and woodland greatly screen ground level views towards the Site. Effects of the Proposed Development would be low magnitude at most, **Moderate/Minor**, and Not Significant.

6.12.68 The summary of visual effects from Historic Parks and Gardens is set out in **Table 6.26.**

Table 6.26 Assessment of visual effects from Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks and Gardens Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect	Significance
Pontypool Park	High	Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
Brynderwen, Bettwys Newydd;,	High	Low	**Moderate/- Minor**	Not Significant
Clytha Park	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Llanarth Court	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Cefn Ila	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Maes Manor Hotel	High	Low	**Moderate/- Minor**	Not Significant

Assessment of visual effects from PRoW and OAL

6.12.69 PRoW and OAL within 15km that have been considered further in the LVIA are assessed at a high level within the Chapter.

6.12.70 Users of PRoW and OAL are considered to be of high sensitivity generally and may rise to very high within nationally designated landscapes such as within the BBNP. There is a dense network of PRoW across the Study Area that connect settlements, and wider countryside, and wide areas of OAL with the ZTV as shown on **Figure 6.19**.

6.12.71 Construction effects would be transient and short term and due to the nature of the proposal to include large turbines would not be greater than operational affects. As such, operational effects are considered for the completed scheme which would be long term in nature (although ultimately reversible). Reference is made to PVPs taken on or in proximity to PRoW and or OAL within the ZTV and 15km study area to aid in the assessment of visual effects.

6.12.72 The summary of visual effects from PRoW and OAL is set out in **Table 6.27**.

Table 6.27 Summary of effects on PRoW and OAL

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of effect	Level of effect	Significance
Receptors within the Site				
PRoW & OAL	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
Receptors within 5km				
PRoW & OAL	Very high - high	Very high to imperceptible	**Major (within BBNP) to minor**	**Significant** to Non-Significant
Receptors between 5-10km				
PRoW & OAL	Very high - high	Very high to imperceptible	**Major to minor**	**Significant** to Non-Significant
Receptors between 10 – 15km				
PRoW & OAL	Very high - high	Medium to imperceptible	**Moderate to minor**	**Significant** to Non-Significant

6.12.73 The visual effects on PRoW and OAL are described below.

Within / adjacent to Site

6.12.74 There are a number of PRoW including footpaths, bridleways, and roads used as public paths that run within or adjacent to the Site, these are summarised in the baseline contained at **Appendix 6B** and listed below.

6.12.75 The majority of routes also traverse and provide access to areas of OAL in this location.

6.12.76 **PVP 1**, located on Mynydd Llanhilleth Common illustrates the view from an access road (connecting to British Road and Farm Road to the east) close to turbine three and the central area of the Site on the elevated plateau.

6.12.77 **PVP 3** is located on a public footpath (413/85) within the common to the north-east. As would be expected in locations within/adjacent to the Site, both illustrate that the magnitude of change would be very high with "*Substantial change to the baseline, forming a new, defining focus and having a defining influence on views*."

6.12.78 Given the upland location and height of the turbines, the Proposed Development and full extent of the turbines would be clearly visible from all areas within the Site and effects for all users would be very high magnitude and combined with high sensitivity results in a **Major** adverse and **Significant** effects that would be long term (reversible).

6.12.79 Additionally, PRoW that follow access roads would experience direct effects during construction with the upgrading (widening) of roads, where required, to build out the development. These include footpaths (or sections of) 413/88, 413/89, 413/90, 313/176, 337/117 337/118, 337/57 that follow the proposed access route that connects Farm Road at Talywain to the St. Illtyd Rd / Blaen Y cwm Rd junction east of St. Illtyd. Further PRoW within the Site are likely to be crossed at points by upgraded access routes or new access routes as part of the proposals. Diversions and/or closures required to facilitate access would be temporary in nature.

Within 5km

6.12.80 Within 5km of the Site, the dense network of PRoW traverse very varied landscapes; including secluded valleys systems, steep valley sides and well vegetated woodland outside of the ZTV of the Proposed Development to wide open elevated routes with expansive views in all directions. The pattern of PRoW are particularly dense on western slopes of the generally north–south ranging ridgeline of elevated land that includes the Site where views westward (away from the Site) are more likely. Southwards and eastwards views from PRoW traversing adjacent hills to the west are also available, where views towards the Site are likely to include urban built form in the foreground.

6.12.81 There are also a number of areas of OAL associated with elevated commons land and, depending on location or aspect, range from having clear and direct views of the Proposed Development to being outside of the ZTV. Overall, the magnitude of change to users of PRoW and OAL within 5km range from very high and levels of effect are anticipated to range **Major** and **Significant**, to **Imperceptible** and Not Significant.

6.12.82 A number of PVPs have been taken as part of the assessment that illustrate views from prominent areas of OAL and PRoW.

North-west

6.12.83 North-west of the Site within the ZTV, PRoW routes include those traversing elevated plateau and ridgeline walks and two main areas of commons land, stretching north from the Site towards Coety Mountain and another on the adjacent ridgeline to the west at Cefn yr Arail extending north-west to Ebbw Vale.

6.12.84 **PVP 8**, taken from within elevated OAL and bridleway 331/20 (close to intersection of a number of PRoW) north of the Site at c. 500m aOD and c. 1.6km for the nearest turbine shows the full array would be clearly visible in an open view.

6.12.85 **PVP 10** shows an open elevated view from Bridleway 331/110, located to the west of Six Bells, towards the Site. Located over 2km from the nearest turbine, the proposal would be partially visible in the middle distance within a 45 degrees field of view and would appear somewhat scattered in the view. These PVPs represent typical views from higher elevations of OAL and PRoW routes within this part of the Study Area. It should be noted, however, that some areas of OAL and PRoW are outwith the ZTV. Furthermore, there are areas where intervisibility with the Proposed Development would be substantially reduced or screened completely due to intervening built form and vegetation.

North-east

6.12.86 North-east of the Site within 5km, the PRoW network is generally sparser with a greater concentration within built up areas. Four PVPs are located in this area, including (**PVPs 4 12, 15,** and **16**).

6.12.87 **PVP 4** is located towards the base of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Abersychan, on an access road at the edge of the OAL at Llanerch Memorial. It is relatively close to the Site and c. 650m from the nearest turbine, the magnitude of change would be very high, and the level of effect would be **Major** adverse and **Significant**.

6.12.88 Similarly, **PVP 15** located on footpath 413/114 atop Coety Mountain, c. 4km north of the Site, would have direct views across expansive and elevated landscape.

6.12.89 **PVP 12**, however, is located on Woodside Road at the edge of development, and route of the Torfaen Trail east of the Site and not within OAL where effects would be **Major/Moderate** and **Significant** adverse effects in the long term. **PVP 16** is taken from a similar direction of looking

towards the Site from Lasgarn Lane.; this is an open and clear view from within OAL at the edge of the BBNP.

6.12.90 Potential for effects from routes and areas of common land can change quickly from direct and elevated views to no visibility as a result of landform and intervening vegetation/built form along routes.

South-east

6.12.91 To the south-east, the PRoW network is frequent and typically situated on low lying land and along contours adjacent to settlements. There is also good access to, and connectivity across, wider areas of elevated common OAL including Mynydd Lwyd which rises to the south-east of the Site beyond Cwm y Glyn.

6.12.92 **PVP 6** located on a footpath 423/41 and road junction in Pantygasseg includes a photomontage of the Proposed Development from the sloping valley sides in this direction, and whereupon, despite some vegetation screening and clutter in views, effects would be of a very high magnitude of change. Some areas of OAL at Mynydd Lwyd allow for open views towards the site. Where visible the Proposed Development would be seen in the middle distance of views, typically over and above areas of plantation woodland and other working landscape elements, and the change would tend to be high. Elsewhere, however, views would be greatly restricted, and views may change rapidly from open views to no views at all within a short distance of PRoW on valley sides as they traverse the landscape.

South-west

6.12.93 South-west of the Site, effects follow a similar story to above, with areas of OAL within the ZTV likely to have very high magnitude changes as a result to changes in views over wide open elevated landscapes. However, it is notable that there is also considerably less OAL in the form of common land in this area relative to others. **PVP 5** displays a close-range view from the edge of OAL along Blaen y Cwm Road where the magnitude of change would be high. Elsewhere, there is relatively little OAL within the ZTV of the Proposed Development. **PVP 11** is located near to PRoW footpath 345/36 adjacent to settlement (Pentwyn). It shows the view north-east towards the Site over a settled valley floor and from which the magnitude of change would be high. In reality, the extent of the footpath and areas of OAL within the ZTV is likely to be greatly reduced than that shown on the ZTV and intervening built form and vegetation would further screen and / or filter views to the Site and Proposed Development.

Within 5-10km

6.12.94 Between 5-10km within the ZTV, though the pattern of PROW across the landscape is similar, a far greater extent of the south-western segment of the Study Area lies within the ZTV. Overall, the magnitude of change for users of PRoW and OAL within 5-10km is anticipated to range from very high to high owing to the scenic value of parts of the elevated and rural landscape. The levels of effect are likely to range from **Major** and **Significant,** to **Imperceptible** and Not Significant.

North-west

6.12.95 To the north-west, bands of high ground as reflected by OAL run roughly diagonally north-west to south-east constraining visibility of the Proposed Development to upper ridges and south-eastern facing slopes and greatly screening the valleys immediately beyond. Though fairly regular, the PRoW network is slightly sparser in places. **PVP 19** shows the view from the edge of OAL at a scenic viewpoint north of Hollybush c. 7.7km north-west of the nearest turbine. Change to the view is judged to be low.

6.12.96 As well as large areas of lower valley land areas outside of the ZTV there are fairly extensive areas of OAL associated with the ridges present north-west of the Site that are within the ZTV and have views over intervening hills towards the Site and Proposed Development, however, due north of the Site, this decreases as intervening hills screen views from areas beyond.

North-east

6.12.97 To the north-east of the Site the extent of the ZTV is much more limited, constrained to an elevated ridgeline north and east of Blaenavon to the north and localised but fragmented areas of rural farmland in its south-east. **PVP 18** within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site is located on OAL and PRoW (footpath 414/46) south-east of Blaenavon and is assessed as high magnitude of change, with **Major/Moderate** and **Significant**. **PVP 22** located atop the Blorenge (within the BBNP) is also within OAL and assessed as likely to experience a high magnitude of change. These represent the greatest value and landscape sensitivities within this segment of the Study Area.

South-east

6.12.98 South-east of the Site between 5-10km, a large area of Cwmbran is entirely outside the ZTV to blade tip and would incur no effects from the Proposed Development. Some areas at the top and on north facing slopes of OAL along a ridgeline that includes Mynydd Henlly south-west of Cwmbran overlaps with the ZTV for the Proposed Development.

6.12.99 **PVP 21** is located at a particular scenic viewpoint at 'Twmbarlwm' at the western edge of this segment and shows wide views across a vast landscape in all directions including north towards the Site. The northern part of the ridgeline is also heavily wooded and disturbed in areas with plantation woodland and the extent of the OAL with views of the Site is lower than suggested by the ZTV. South and east of Twmbarlwn and Cwmbran there are extensive areas outside of the ZTV and views of the Proposed Development are unavailable for many PRoW that cross this area.

6.12.100 The route of the A4042 road generally follows a contour north to south whereupon views of the Proposed Development to its east, beyond built form, are possible and continue, albeit fragmented in accordance with the rolling landscape in this area. Views of the Proposed Development are likely to be possible sporadically/intermittently from sections of PRoW on more elevated areas where not enclosed/screened by field boundary vegetation and woodland. Effects of the Proposed Development on users of PRoW in these areas would not exceed medium magnitude where it would form "*a new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor.*" Elsewhere, the magnitude of effects would quickly diminish to low and imperceptible.

South-west

6.12.101 South-west of the Site there are relatively few areas of OAL within the ZTV, and many of these are flanked with woodland, acting to break up and screen views reducing the actual visibility from that suggested by the ZTV. The greatest level of effects is likely to occur in the south in areas close to Twmbarlwm. PRoW traverse a fair proportion of the ZTV in this segment of the Study Area. However, these include areas within settlements where actual visibility is likely to be screened by intervening built form and/or routes close to settlements within well vegetated (trees and scrub) valley sides that would also act to filter views towards the Site. Views would be available from areas of more open land within the ZTV with a north-east aspect where the Proposed Development would be seen over and beyond intervening landform on the upper ridges as receding elements in the backdrop of views albeit they would break the skyline.

Within 10-15km

6.12.102 Between 10-15km north-west of the Site the density of the PRoW network appears reduced, partly due to the wide area of common land encompassing Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Llangynidr

within the BBNP. From this distance, the visibility of the Proposed Development is also greatly limited to areas of high ground as indicated by the ZTV. The vast majority of the PRoW network in this area is outside of the ZTV and would remain unaffected by the Proposed Development.

6.12.103 Approximately 50% of OAL along Cefn Y Brithdir, and Gelligaer Common (west of the Rhymney Valley) and Rhymney Hill (north of Rhymney) are within the ZTV, and each contain PRoW with potential views towards the Proposed Development. **PVP 23** shows the view from footpath 621/76 and OAL at Cefn Y Brithdir west of New Tredegar and c. 10.8km from the nearest turbine. Effects to this view are considered significant and represent 'worst case' where views from these elevated open moorlands would be of a "*new and recognisable element within the view.*"

6.12.104 To the north of this, **PVP 25** taken from Mynydd Llangatwg trig point c. 12.6km north of the Site within the BBNP (very high sensitivity). Overall change would range from medium to imperceptible for PRoW and OAL areas within the ZTV.

6.12.105 North-east of the Site, relatively small areas of OAL cross the ZTV from which part of the Proposed Development may be visible. Given their location within the BBNP, this area is of very high sensitivity. **PVP 26** is taken from Sugar Loaf Mountain trig point c. 16 km north-east of the Site and outside of the 15km Study Area but demonstrates some **Significant** effects would arise where southerly views are concerned.

6.12.106 To the south-east of the Site between 10-15km, the ZTV is fragmented. Visibility is likely to be restricted to filtered and partial views as vegetation and built form more commonly intervenes in views towards the Site.

6.12.107 To the south-west of the Site, there are further areas of OAL on elevated land within the ZTV. The Proposed Development would be viewed above and behind tiers of intervening hills and in the distance, and the magnitude of change is unlikely to exceed medium. **PVP 24** illustrates the view from PRoW along the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and a very low magnitude of change was ascribed.

6.12.108 Overall, the effects on views from PRoW and OAL within 10-15km and blade tip ZTV is anticipated to range from **Moderate** and **Significant** at worst, to **Negligible** and Not Significant.

Assessment of visual effects on Transport Routes (Motorways, A and B roads)

6.12.109 There are a number of transport routes that traverse the Study Area and overlap with the ZTV as shown on **Figure 6.19**.

6.12.110 The 'A' and 'B' road network within the Study Area is generally confined to the valley floors and lower valley sides of the South Wales Valleys region. As such, these visual receptors journeys are characterised by extensive areas of urban development on which the routes pass through, with limited potential for outward views due to a combination of built form, topography and mature vegetation.

6.12.111 There would be **Significant** effects on roads as a result of the Proposed Development, including scenic B-roads that traverse and/or are adjacent to the Site, as well as sections of the B4246 and B4471 that run within 5km of the Site.

6.12.112 The summary of visual effects on Transport Routes (Motorways, A and B roads) is set out below and summarised in **Table 6.28.**

Table 6.28 Summary of effects on Transport Routes

Route	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of effect	Significance
Roads within /adjacent to the Site				
B-Roads and access tracks	Medium	Very High - High	**Major/ Moderate to Moderate**	**Significant**
Receptors within 5km				
A4043	Low	Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
A4046	Low	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not significant
A467	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not significant
A472	Low	High	**Moderate/Minor**	Not significant
B4246	Medium	high	**Moderate**	**Significant**
B4251	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
B4471	Medium	High	**Moderate**	**Significant**
Receptors between 5 – 15km				
A472	Low	Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not significant
A4042	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not significant
B4511	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not significant
B4254	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/Minor**	Not significant
M4	Low	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not significant

6.12.113 The visual effects on Transport Routes (Motorways, A and B roads) are described below.

Routes within the Site

6.12.114 A network of scenic minor roads and tracks cross within the Site including named roads such as Blaen-y-cwm Road that lies within the western extent of the Site and Farm Road located to the north-east and off which the proposed access route runs. Direct, oblique and sequential views would be available from parts of these routes and the proposals would be seen at very close range.

6.12.115 Existing roads such as Blaen-y-cwm Road and Farm Road, and a number of existing tracks associated with previous industrial activities, including extractive quarry and logging works which would be used as part of the Proposed Development. These routes require upgrading in places, including ground levelling and widening and realigning to allow for the turning of large vehicles transporting wind turbine components. A number of short sections of new routes would also be constructed to allow construction of the proposed turbines and their prescribed locations.

6.12.116 The magnitude of change to routes within the Site is likely to be very high overall and the level of effect is anticipated to be **Major/ Moderate** adverse (overall) and **Significant** overall.

Routes within 5km

6.12.117 There are four A-roads and three B-roads within the ZTV to blade tip.

6.12.118 The A4043 Cwmavon Road connects Blaenavon in the north with Pontypool in the south over a c. 10km distance along the Cwmavon valley and runs roughly parallel to the Site. It is predominantly outside of the ZTV through a settled and developed corridor. Views out tend to be restricted by built form and roadside vegetation. Any views towards the Proposed Development would be greatly restricted to glimpsed views between or deflected over intervening built form and vegetation and generally would comprise oblique views from the route. Change on users of these the A4043 would not exceed low and combined with a low sensitivity of users of such main road routes, overall effects would not exceed **Minor/Negligible** adverse and Not Significant.

6.12.119 The A472 runs roughly west to east connecting Crumlin with the A4042 at Pontypool along the valley floor. For much of its c. 9km route, it is outside of the ZTV. A short section (up to c. 1km) at Pontypool overlaps with the ZTV and is urban in nature with built form and major junctions forming the immediate context. Tall trees flank the roads in places acting to contain views. However, due to its orientation in line with the Site, direct views towards the Site are also available along this part of the A4042. Effects in this area for users would arise from a high magnitude of change to the baseline (where the additional tall turbines would be clearly noticeable, and part of the view would be fundamentally altered). Combined with a low sensitivity attributable to major roads. effects would be **Moderate/Minor**, adverse at most and **Not Significant**.

6.12.120 The A467 is a longer length (c. 30km) of road connecting Ebbw Vale in the north to the M4 in the south. It generally traverses the lower valleys and is outside of the ZTV. It follows the lower slopes of hills north-west of Abertillery where direct views towards the Site may be possibly deflected over adjacent built form and or vegetation. Effects would not exceed medium magnitude in general due to containing effects of vegetation flanking the road and combined with a medium sensitivity attributable to more scenic road routes would lead to **Moderate/Minor**, adverse effects at most that are Not Significant.

6.12.121 There would be no effects on users of the A4046 as only a very nominal section overlaps with the ZTV as it joins the A467. Three B-roads run within the 5km study area. A c. 500m section of the B4471 south-west of the Site would have visibility of the Proposed Development in line with the direction of the road. As a lesser road in more scenic areas, with views over higher ground it would be of medium sensitivity and high magnitude of change leading to **Moderate** and **Significant** effects for a short section of the route.

6.12.122 The remaining 4km of the route would have not have intervisibility of the Proposed Development, however, reducing the magnitude of change overall. The ZTV suggests the Proposed Development would be highly visible from the B4251 around Oakdale, however, the roadsides are generally very strongly vegetated in this area, greatly screening or filtering views towards the Site. Where possible, views of the Proposed Development would be restricted to the upper portions of wind turbines over intervening vegetation and would tend to be medium magnitude as a 'new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor' at most, leading to **Moderate/Minor** (Not Significant) adverse effects at worst.

6.12.123 The B4246 passes to the east of the Site and is the road from which the Site would be accessed. It runs through built urban townscape at its southern end and ascends the southern slopes of Mynydd Farteg Fach before continuing around the side and descending out of the ZTV towards Blaenavon. At worst, on the upland areas as it crests the side of the hill, open views to the Proposed Development would be available for users of this route and the change would be high magnitude as it would be 'clearly noticeable and part of the view would be fundamentally altered' leading to **Moderate** and **Significant** adverse effects.

Routes between 5-15km

6.12.124 Between 5-10km from the Site, a number of A-roads traverse the Study Area with the majority outside of the ZTV. An exception to this is a section of the A472 which connects Newbridge at its north-east to Ystrad Mynach in the south-west. Approximately 5km of this route traverses the ZTV of the Proposed Development, suggesting extensive visibility of the Proposed Development is available for users of this route. In reality, the road is generally well vegetated to each side as it follows the contours along the hillside and only upper elements of the turbines would be potentially visible as distant elements behind intervening roadside vegetation. The nature of the effects for all routes would be adverse and long-term (reversible). Where visible the magnitude of change would not exceed low and combining with low sensitivity for major road routes would result in a **Minor/Negligible** adverse level of effect which is Not significant.

6.12.125 South-east of the Site a c. 4km section of the A4042 south of Pontypool runs within the ZTV. Vegetation and built form flanking the roadside acts to screen or filter views in some areas but it is weaker than on other roads and expansive views over distant hilltops including the Site are available and the Proposed Development would be seen as a 'new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor'. The magnitude of change would be medium and the level of effect would be **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

6.12.126 B-roads within 5-10km of the Site and within the ZTV are clustered to the south-west of the Site within Caerphilly CBC. The B4511 and B4254 and B4251 cross through the ZTV and distant views of the Proposed Development would be available. **PVP 20** is taken from close to the B4254 at Pontllanfraith and demonstrates the view currently (and with a wireframe). Upper elements of the turbines would be visible from the more exposed open uplands ridges between the valleys. The magnitude of change would be medium at most and the level of effect would be **Moderate/Minor** adverse and Not Significant.

6.12.127 Between 10-15km, very few A-roads overlap with the ZTV of the Proposed Development. Where views are possible, for example from section of the A472 at Rhadyr east of the Site, the magnitude of change would be low at most. The level of effect would range from **Minor** to **Minor/Negligible** and **Not Significant** even with an elevated 'medium' sensitivity derived from scenic routes as they tend to be on elevated hillsides/slopes.

6.12.128 The M4 also runs within 15km of the Site and is generally within built up urban context in this area on Newport's northern fringe. It is generally outside the ZTV (to blade tip) of the proposed with a nominal section passing through it east of the Bryn Glass tunnels, and any effects would not exceed **Negligible**.

6.13 Assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects

6.13.1 A preliminary CLVIA has been undertaken as part of the LVIA. Wind farm developments which have been considered in the CLVIA are those that are operational and consented, and those that are in planning and at the scoping stage within a 27km study area. In total, there are 30 other wind farm developments considered in the cumulative assessment study area and these are shown on **Figure 6.32**.

6.13.2 The methodology used for this assessment is contained in **Appendix 6A**. The approach has been guided by best practice guidance in combination with professional judgement in an effort to reduce the scope due to the complex nature of cumulative assessments in themselves, but in addition where such high numbers of wind farms have been included in the assessment, and the study extent included encompasses over 80 sq. km.

6.13.3 NatureScots' guidance has informed the two cumulative scenarios and these are as follows:

- Scenario A – The Proposed Development in addition to Operational and Consented Schemes; and
- Scenario B - The Proposed Development in addition to Operational and Consented Schemes plus those Schemes in Planning and in Scoping.

6.13.4 The approach taken in this assessment considers the degree to which the addition of the Proposed Development to these scenarios would alter theoretical views, or theoretical effects on landscape character. The assessment does not aim to assess the combined cumulative effects of all schemes therefore, but it specifically looks at how the introduction of the Proposed Development would influence the scenarios considered.

The wind farm developments shown in the figures are grouped by status, and are colour coded as follows:

- The Proposed Development, referred to as Mynydd Llanhilleth is coloured blue;
- Operational and consented schemes are coloured green and light green respectively; and
- Schemes in planning are coloured orange; and
- Schemes in scoping are coloured pink.

6.13.5 Cumulative ZTVs have been prepared to demonstrate both scenarios together. The number of other wind farm developments that are theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Development ZTV to blade tip are shown in bands (i.e. 1-5 wind farms visible). **Figure 6.33** illustrates Scenario A and **Figure 6.34** illustrates Scenario B.

6.13.6 With respect to cumulative effects on landscape character, this assessment has focussed on the published character areas of the BBNP, and **Figure 6.16** was used in combination with the Cumulative ZTVs to interpret likely cumulative effects. The rationale for focussing the cumulative landscape character assessment solely on the BBNP is due to the elevated value ascribed to the National Park in this assessment. The sensitivity of this landscape receptor is judged to be very high. In addition, the BBNP boundary ranges from within 5km to beyond 27km of the Site, furthermore it is situated east, north-east, north and north-west, therefore it is also representative of potential cumulative landscape effects from a range of distances and directions within the Study Area from a highly sensitive landscape receptor.

6.13.7 **Appendix 6H** sets out the cumulative landscape effects on the character of the National Park LCAs and a summary of Scenario A and Scenario B is provided below.

6.13.8 With respect to cumulative effects on visual amenity, this assessment has focussed on the LVIA PVPs which were found to have Not Significant effects when the Proposed Development alone was evaluated. These PVPs are listed in **Section 6.12**. The consideration of cumulative effects focuses on landscape and visual receptors that would not experience significant effects as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development alone, but may experience significant effects as a result of the incremental contribution of the Proposed Development. .PVPs t

6.13.9 hat are on the cusp of being significant are considered to be more important to assess because although effects were deemed Not Significant when the Proposed Development alone was considered in isolation, there may be Significant cumulative effects as a result of the proposals.

6.13.10 **Appendix 6I** sets out the cumulative visual effects on the selected PVPs, of which there are 11 in total. A summary of Scenario A and Scenario B is also provided below.

6.13.11 The cumulative wireframes contained at **Figure 6.35** illustrate Scenario B, which includes wind energy developments at all stages of planning. In reality, not all of these wind energy developments may be granted planning consent, and as such, this scenario is a worst-case scenario that may never come to pass. The colour coding of the wind farm developments illustrated in the cumulative wireframes denotes their status, therefore the cumulative wireframes have also been used as an aid to inform the cumulative visual effects reported on for Scenario A.

6.13.12 It should be noted that one operational scheme (Blaentillery) is shown in error in the cumulative wireframes (**Figure 6.35**). This wind farm development did not meet the scope assessment threshold due to height and distance from the Proposed Development (45m to tip, but beyond 5km from Site) and it has not been considered in the CLVIA set out herein.

Scenario A: Cumulative Landscape Effects

6.13.13 The status of the majority of the wind farm developments in Scenario A are operational. As shown in **Figure 6.32** the Proposed Development sits centrally at the eastern edge of a group of wind farm schemes which tends to spread and 'fan out' westwards. A further distinct group of developments is also apparent to the south-east of the Site near the Severn Estuary. Only two consented schemes are located within the 27km study area altogether and have a high degree of certainty of being developed and adding to the existing baseline of operational wind developments. There are a few operational and consented schemes to the north-west in the Rassau Industrial estate which is near the boundary of the BBNP.

6.13.14 Of the six published character areas of the BBNP assessed in Scenario A, only one (LCA15 Blorenge Hills and Slopes) was found to have a Significant effect as a result of the Proposed Development being perceived in addition to operational and consented schemes within 27km.

6.13.15 However, Scenario A is very similar to the baseline, as there are far more operational wind farms within the study area (which would already be visible in the baseline views) than there are consented schemes (which are only shown in the modelled views). Most operational schemes are on elevated and exposed ground to the west and north-west, but barely visible either on their own, or in combination with the proposed scheme. The extent of cumulative change from this LCA would be largely the same under Scenario A as the non-cumulative scenario, meaning the actual cumulative change is *de minimis* (as the wireframes so accurately show).

6.13.16 Both consented schemes are at a considerable distance from the Proposed Development, and as for those in operation, the pattern and distribution of these schemes is largely dispersed and removed from the Site.

Scenario B: Cumulative Landscape Effects

6.13.17 **Figure 6.33** shows the distribution of operational and consented wind farms plus those in planning and those in scoping. There is a large number of windfarm schemes within the study area at planning or scoping stage that could result in cumulative effects in combination with operational schemes and the addition of the Proposed Development.

6.13.18 Within 5km of the Site there are four other large schemes which almost surround the Site to the north, north-east and south. Carn-y-Cefn is in planning, and three other wind farm developments are at the scoping stage, these are Mynydd Maen; Abertillery and Trecelyn. Given the proximity of these schemes as well as the potential scale of these, cumulative landscape effects from parts of the National Park are likely as the Proposed Development itself lies centrally within this group and is of a similar scale. The remainder of the wind farm developments considered in Scenario B are interspersed in elevated areas further west.

6.13.19 The cumulative assessment on the character areas of the National Park finds that the Proposed Development would be seen either grouped behind other Sites on the horizon, or in others, it may appear to extend across the elevated landscape and combine to be perceived as one large wind farm. Subsequently, whilst the total sum of wind farm developments would form new and significant elements in the landscape, when viewed in isolation as an additional scheme amongst the baseline that is Scenario B, the Proposed Development would manifest as very low to low magnitude of change for the majority of the character areas assessed. In this regard, there is likely to be a significant cumulative effect without the addition of ML, and only a marginally increased significant effect with its addition.

6.13.20 Two of the character areas were found to have **Significant** effects as a result the Proposed Development being perceived in addition to other wind farm developments considered in Scenario B. The assessment found that LCA 15 Blorenge Hills and Slopes and LCA 7: Central Beacons are both likely to experience **Significant** cumulative effects as a result of the scheme adding to the number of wind farms that would be perceptible from hills and summits.

6.13.21 The Proposed Development would partially fill gaps between other schemes in views from the north-west and north-east. The addition of ML itself would result in a minor alteration to the baseline Scenario, and the result would increase the number of wind turbines seen at a considerable distance from the LCA. Other wind farm schemes would result in Significant cumulative effects with or without ML's contribution. In addition to the other wind farms, the indirect cumulative effect of ML would be low overall and the Proposed Development was not found to be the main scheme or lead contributing factor to the cumulative effects that would arise when all other schemes are seen in combination with the Proposed Development.

Scenario A: Cumulative Visual Effects

6.13.22 From the LVIA PVPs assessed as part of the LVIA, it is evident that the operational schemes north of Ebbw Vale are difficult to discern in baseline views. In views where they might have potential to intervene in views towards the Site, or be seen in combination in a direct view, such as from further to the north-west, (**PVP 30**), landform intervenes in the view. Furthermore, the cumulative wireframe prepared for **PVP 30** illustrates that these operational turbines would not be theoretically in combination with the Proposed Development.

6.13.23 The second consented turbine is over 20km to the south-east of the Site; Rush Wall Redwick is located near the Severn Estuary and is 150m to blade tip. There is also a cluster of operational schemes around Rush Wall Redwick, and further west of Rush Wall Redwick. Rush Wall Redwick is the highest to blade tip, whereas the heights of other turbines to the south-east range from 100m-130m to blade tip. Due to the distance and location of these schemes to the south-east of the site, there is very little intervisibility with the Proposed Development where they would be in the same field of view. Cumulative visual effects if any would be **Minor**.

6.13.24 There are three operational schemes within 5km of the Proposed Development, the closest of which is Coed y Gilfach (two x 45m to blade tip). There is some intervisibility with this scheme, however, due to the sheer difference in scale, cumulative visual effects are most likely to be limited to close range views. Two more schemes at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Park are larger turbines that are more intervisible in combination with the Proposed Development. For instance, at in **PVP 20 (Figure 6.35)**, the operational schemes are seen clearly in the middle ground and the Proposed Development would be seen in the background. In this instance, due to the perspective of the view and the juxtaposition of the operational schemes visible in combination with the Proposed Development, a **Moderate/Minor** adverse effect was concluded which is Not Significant in Scenario A.

6.13.25 In summary, **Appendix 6I** sets out the findings of the 11 PVPs assessed from a cumulative perspective; there would be no significant effects as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development in views where consented and operational schemes may be visible (Scenario A).

Scenario B: Cumulative Visual Effects

6.13.26 In addition to operational and consented windfarms, **Figure 6.32** shows Scenario B in full and the distribution of wind farm developments in planning and those at the scoping stage are also illustrated. There is a concentration of wind farm developments within 5km of the Proposed Development and most are at the scoping stage (and most likely to be subject to change).

6.13.27 Unlike Scenario A, the scale and pattern of the developments are of a similar scale and height to the Proposed Development, and also, these schemes are similarly located on some of the highest most exposed contours found in the South Wales Valleys. With respect to the turbine heights, the scale of the turbines is also similar to the Proposed Development. 180m to tip turbines are proposed at Abertillery (7) and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn (8 – in planning), and 150m to tip turbines are proposed at Mynydd Maen (15) and Trecelyn (5). It is reasonable to assume that by virtue of their proximity and their similarities in terms of siting, turbine specifications and numbers proposed, the Proposed Development, when seen in combination with these schemes alone would result in some significant visual effects from a range of directions and distances within the Study Area.

6.13.28 In views from the north and south, looking towards the Site from beyond 5km – it's probable that the Proposed Development would merge into this scene and there would be no distinction or legibility between wind farms. It is likely that there would already be a significant effect in many views as a result of other wind farms that would be visible, and the proposed scheme would only add to this in a limited way.

6.13.29 In views from the east and west, looking towards the Site from beyond 5km, it is probable that the proposals would infill a gap between these proposals and therefore the extent of wind farms seen along ridgelines would be increased. In these views, the wind farms seen in combination with the Proposed Development would look linear, homogeneous and would comprise a prominent addition to the views.

6.13.30 Manmoel (5 x 80m to tip) is another large scheme in scoping, and it is a little more removed from clustering found within 5km. This scheme is also intervisible with the Proposed Development, the effects of which are likely to contribute to significant effects from certain perspectives in the Study Area.

6.13.31 In summary, **Appendix 6I** sets out the findings of the 11 PVPs assessed from a cumulative perspective; significant effects were found as a result of the addition of the Proposed Development in views where consented and operational schemes plus those in planning and at scoping may be theoretically visible. There would be significant visual effects for **PVP 9**, **PVP 19**, **PVP 20**, **PVP 24**, **PVP 29**, and **PVP 30.** In all cases, the other wind farms considered in Scenario B would already lead to significant cumulative effects with or without ML's contribution. This is an important distinction as it confirms that the threshold for a significant effect, or the creation of a wind farm landscape or character, is not breached as a result of the Proposed Development.

Significance conclusions

6.13.32 A summary of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment effects is provided in **Table 6.29.**

Table 6.29 Summary of significance of effects

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Level of Effect	Significance[3]
LANDMAP – Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas				
BLNGWVS226	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
BLNGWVS688	High	High	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
BLNGWVS985	Medium	Medium	**Moderate / Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNVS019	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
TRFNVS022	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
TRFNVS024	High	High	**Major/ Moderate**	**Significant**
VSAA Within 5km	High	High (At worst)	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
VSAA within 5-10km	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**
VSAA within 10-15km	Very High to Medium	Very low	**Moderate/-Minor to Minor/-Negligible**	Not Significant
VSAA within 15-20km	Very High to Medium	Very low	**Moderate/-Minor to Minor/-Negligible**	Not Significant
VSAA within20-26km	Very high - high	Very low	**Moderate/Minor to Minor**	Not Significant
LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas				
BLNGWHL025	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**
BLNGWHL044	High	Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNHL012	Medium	Very low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNHL017	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
TRFNHL019	High	Very high	**Major**	**Significant**
HLAA within 5km	High to Low	Medium	**Moderate to Minor**	**Significant** to Not Significant
HLAA within 5-10km	High to Low	Medium	**Moderate to Minor**	**Significant** to Not Significant
HLAA within 10-15km	High to Medium	Low to Very low	**Moderate/-Minor – Minor /-Negligible**	Not Significant
HLAA within 15-20km	Medium	Low to Very low	**Minor - Negligible**	Not Significant
HLAA within 20-26km	Medium - low	Very low	**Minor - Negligible**	Not Significant.
LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas				
BLNGWCLS004	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**

BLNGWCLS022	Low	Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
BLNGWCLS025	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWCLS055	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS013	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS014	Low	Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS015	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS018	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS019	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS022	Low	Very Low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS033	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNCLS035	Very Low	Very Low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
LANDMAP Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas				
BLNGWLH058	Medium	Very low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH059	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH061	Medium	low	**Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH062	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWLH063	Low	Very low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH005	Low	Very low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH010	Low	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH015	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH017	Low	Very low	**Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH036	High	Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH042	Medium	Very low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNLH044	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH050	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNLH056	Medium	Very low	**Minor/ Negligible**	Not Significant
LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas				
BLNGWGL022	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BLNGWGL023	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL003	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
TRFNGL014	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL013	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL015	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
TRFNGL016	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Landscape Receptors				
Brecon Beacons National Park	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant

Special Qualities				
BBNP LCA9: Mynyddoedd LLangatwg & Llangynidr	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BBNP LCA15: Blorenge Hills and Slopes	Very High	Low	**Moderate**	**Significant**
BBNP LCA12: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BBNP LCA13: The Black Mountains	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BBNP LCA8: Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
BBNP LCA7: Central Beacons	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor to negligible**	Not Significant
Wye Valley AONB LMZ 12	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Wye Valley AONB LMZ 13	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Wye Valley AONB LMZ 14	Very High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Blaenavon Industrial Landscape WHS	High	Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
Blaenau Gwent CBC Special Landscape Areas				
A) Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium	**Direct effects: N/A** **Indirect effects: Moderate and adverse**	**Significant**
B) Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: moderate/-minor, Not Significant and adverse.**	Not significant
C) Beaufort Common	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low - very low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Minor Not Significant and adverse.**	Not significant
D) Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James	High	Direct effects - Low Indirect effects – High	**Direct effects – Moderate-Minor adverse** **Indirect effects - Major/_Moderate, adverse** **Overall effects: Major/-Moderate, and adverse.**	**Significant**
E) St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides	High	Direct effects - Low Indirect effects – High	**Direct effects: Moderate - Minor adverse** **Indirect effects: Major/_Moderate, adverse** **Overall effects: Major-moderate and adverse.**	**Significant**
F) Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-minor and adverse.**	Not significant
G) Trefi and Garnlydan SurroundsH) Cefn Manmoel	High	Direct effects – N/A	**Direct effects: NA**	Not significant

		Indirect effects – Low - very low	**Indirect effects: Minor and adverse.**	
H) Cefn Manmoel	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: moderate/-minor and adverse.**	Not significant
Torfaen CBC Special Landscape Areas				
A) Llandegfedd Reservoir	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-Minor and adverse**	Not significant
B)_South Eastern Lowlands	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-Minor and neutral**	Not significant
C) Southern Lowlands	High	No effect	**No effect**	
D) South West Uplands	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-Minor and adverse**	Not significant
E) Blaenavon Heritage Landscape	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-minor, adverse**	Not significant
F) Eastern Uplands	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate and adverse at worst**	**Significant**
G) Afon Lwyd Valley	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-minor, adverse**	Not Significant
H) Western Uplands	High	Direct effects - Low Indirect effects – High	**Direct effects: Moderate-Minor, adverse** **Indirect effects: Major/_Moderate, adverse** **Overall effects: Moderate and adverse**	**Significant**
Caerphilly CBC Special Landscape Areas				
A) Myynddislwyn	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Very low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Minor and neutral**	Not Significant
B) North Caerphilly	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Very low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Minor and neutral**	Not Significant
C) South Caerphilly	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
D) Upper Rhymney Valley	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant

E) Gelligaer	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-Minor and neutral**	Not Significant
F) Mynydd Eglwysilian	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/-minor and neutral**	Not Significant
Caerphilly CBC Visually Important Local Landscapes				
A) Manmoel	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/ minor and neutral**	Not Significant
B) Abercarn	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium - Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate (Significant) at worst** **Overall Moderate /Minor (Not significant) and Adverse**	Not significant
C) Rudry	High	No effects	**No effects**	
D) Northern Rhymney Valley	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	**Direct effects: NA** **Indirect effects: Moderate/ minor, and neutral**	Not significant
Visual Receptors				
PVPs 0-5km	High to Low	Very High to None	**Major to No effect**	**Significant** to Not Significant
PVPs 5-10km	Very High to Low	High to Very Low	**Major to Minor/Negligible**	**Significant** to Not Significant
PVPs 10-15km	Very High to High	Medium to Imperceptible	**Moderate to No effect**	**Significant** to Not Significant
PVPs 15-26km	Very High to High	Medium to Very Low	**Major/Moderate to Minor**	**Significant** to Not Significant
Visitors to Country Parks				
Pen-y-fan Pond	High	Low	**Moderate/- Minor**	Not Significant
Parc Coetir Bargoed,	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Parc Cwm Darran,	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Parc Penallta,	High	Negligible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Sirhowy Valley	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Brynbach	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Clytha Park	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Visitors to Registered Historic Park and Gardens				
Pontypool Park	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Brynderwen, Bettwys Newydd;,	High	Low	**Moderate/-Minor**	Not Significant
Clytha Park	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant

Llanarth Court	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Cefn Ila	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Maes Manor Hotel	High	Low	**Moderate/-Minor**	Not Significant
Residential receptors between 2 – 5km				
Abersychan	High	High	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
Pontypool	High	Medium	**Moderate**	**Significant**
Crumlin	High	High	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
Pen-tywn/Trinant	High	High	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
Swffryd	High	High	**Major/Moderate**	**Significant**
Newbridge	High	Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
Oakdale	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
Abertillery	Medium	High	**Moderate**	**Significant**
Residential Receptors between 5km – 10km				
New Inn	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Glascoed	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Monkswood	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Penpedairheol (Monmouthshire)	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Blaina	High	Very High	**Minor**	Not Significant
Nantyglo	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Manmoel	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Markham	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Argoed	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Bargoed	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Penpedairheol (Caerphilly)	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Blackwood	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Pontrllanfraith	Medium	Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Maesycwmmer	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Gilfach	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Tir-y-berth	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Croesyceiliog	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Residential Receptors between 10km – 15km				
Ystrad Mynach	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Nelson	Very High	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Hengoed and Cefn Hengoed	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Gelligaer and Penybryn	Medium	Very Low	**Minor/Negligible**	Not Significant
Tredegar	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Beaufort	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Brynmawr	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Betts Newydd	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Gwehelog	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Llantrisant	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Llanllowell	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant

Tredunnock	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Llandegveth	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Roughton	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Llanhennock	Very High	Very Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Caerleon	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Ponthir	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Usk	High	Very Low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Recreational users of routes				
Torfaen Trail	High	Low	**Moderate/Minor**	Not Significant
Cistercian Way	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Usk Valley Walk	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Rhymney Valley Ridge Way	High	Low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
Beacons Way	Very high	Very low	**Moderate/ Minor**	Not Significant
Offa's Dyke Path (National Trail)	Very high	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
Sustrans National Cycle Network Within 5km	High	Very low	**Minor**	Not Significant
Sustrans National Cycle Network Beyond 5km	High	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
PROW and OAL Within Site	High	Very High	**Major**	**Significant**
PROW and OAL Within 5km	Very high - high	Very high – imperceptible	**Major – Negligible**	**Significant** to Not Significant
PROW and OAL Within 5km-10km	Very high - high	Very high – imperceptible	**Major-Negligible**	**Significant** to Not Significant
PROW and OAL Within 10 – 15km	Very high - high	Medium – imperceptible	**Moderate – Negligible**	**Significant** to Not Significant
Road Users				
Users of B-roads on Site	Medium	High	**Moderate**	**Significant**
Road users within 5km				
A4043	Low	Low	**Minor/- negligible, adverse.**	Not Significant
A4046	Low	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant
A467	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/- Minor, adverse**	Not Significant
A472	Low	High	**Moderate/-minor, adverse**	Not Significant
B4246	Medium	high	**Moderate**	**Significant**
B4251	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/-minor adverse**	Not Significant
B4471	Medium	High	**Moderate, adverse at worst**	**Significant**
Road users between 5 – 15km				

A472	Low	Low	**Minor/- Negligible, adverse**	Not Significant
A4042	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/-minor**	Not Significant
B4511	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/-minor**	Not Significant
B4254	Medium	Medium	**Moderate/-minor**	Not Significant
M4	Low	Imperceptible	**Negligible**	Not Significant

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, high and very 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/importance/value 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**.

Further work

6.13.33 Prior to undertaking the surveys and assessments to be presented in the Final ES, it is proposed to undertake consultation Statutory Consultees on the preliminary Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment and assessment methodology proposed herein.

6.13.34 It is proposed that additional cumulative landscape effects are considered from Special Landscape Areas (SLA) identified and assessed in the LVIA to identify likely significant effects from a range of local landscape designations in addition to the BBNP, and the revised assessment will be presented in the Final ES.