

## **Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm**

### **Appendix 6H: Designated Landscapes Assessment of Effects**

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- 1.1 This Appendix sets out the assessment of landscape effects for the following designated landscapes:
- Bannau Brycheiniog/Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP);
  - Wye Valley National Landscape (NL) (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – AONB);
  - Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (BILWHS); and
  - Special Landscape Areas and Visually Important Local Landscapes (within 15km radius).
- 1.2 This Appendix should be read in conjunction with **Figures 6.15** and **6.16**. All Figures are contained in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Baseline (**Appendix 6B**). The BBNP and the Wye Valley NL are both landscape designations afforded protection at a national level, and both have published character assessments that have been reviewed herein.
- 1.3 The cumulative effects of wind farm development on the published character areas of the National Park and the locally designated Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are considered below and the methodology used is set out in **Appendix 6A**. The list of wind farm developments considered as part of the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment (CLVIA) are listed in **Table 6.7** of the Environmental Statement. **Figure 6.32** illustrates the status, pattern and distribution of these other wind farm developments in relation to the Proposed Development at Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) within a 27km study area. Two non-windfarm developments (Tir Pentwys and The British) have also been considered where there is a commonality between SLAs (i.e. where ML and these other schemes may have direct or indirect landscape effects on the local landscape designations). Two cumulative ZTVs have been prepared to illustrate the windfarm scenarios that have been considered:
- **Scenario A** shows Mynydd Llanhilleth in addition to schemes in operation and consented; and
  - **Scenario B** shows Mynydd Llanhilleth in addition to schemes in operation and consented plus schemes in planning or in scoping.
- 1.4 Scenario A is shown on **Figure 6.33** and Scenario B is shown on **Figure 6.34**. **Figure 6.35** shows the cumulative wireframes for **PVPs 1-30**.



- 1.5 The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape is a World Heritage Site as designated by UNESCO due to the prevailing historic industrial land use in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Potential landscape character effects on the tangible elements of the landscape designations and the industrial landscape are summarised herein. A review of LANDMAP visual and sensory, and historic landscape characterisations have informed this assessment, and the respective LANDMAP assessments are expanded on in **Appendices 6C** and **6D** of **Chapter 6** of the Environmental Statement. Furthermore, a review of Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) has been carried out as part of the LVIA, and those which also partially overlap with BILWHS informed this assessment. There is no single LANDMAP aspect area or SLA boundary which aligns with the boundary of the BILWHS, therefore professional judgement has been employed to arrive at a level of effect on the character of the World Heritage Site overall.
- 1.6 A detailed assessment of the heritage effects has been considered by a heritage consultant which is detailed in **Chapter 7** of the ES.

#### **A6H.1 Bannau Brycheiniog/Brecon Beacons National Park**

##### ***Special Qualities of the BBNP***

- 1.7 The National Park is located c.4.1km to the east of the Site at its closest point to the nearest turbine proposed. The National Park extends further north-east, north and north-west of the Site where a series of valleys border the southern edge of the National Park and provide further separation from the Proposed Development.
- 1.8 Ten special qualities of the BBNP are defined within the *Management Plan For Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023–2028*, and these are listed below:

- **(1) Sweeping Grandeur and Outstanding Natural Beauty**

*“The Park’s sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with caves and sink holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive views in all directions. A landscape that provides a sense of time depth and timelessness.”*

- **(2) Living Landscape**

*“An abundance of wildlife thrives in semi-natural habitats that have been lived in and shaped by human settlement for millennia. The landscape is interlaced with ancient hedgerows bustling with life, enclosing wildlife-rich hay meadows, and primeval woodlands that cloak some steep-sided valleys. Veteran trees adorn the landscape, carrying the scars of centuries of changing dependency on their resources. Heather-dominated uplands*



*maintained through grazing by horses, sheep and cattle are a testament to the intimate relationship between biodiversity and farming .”*

- **(3) Sounds, Sights, Smells and Tastes**

*“A feeling of vitality and wellbeing that comes from enjoying the Park’s fresh air, clean water, rural setting, open land and locally produced foods.”*

- **(4) Peace, Tranquillity, and Darkness**

*“A National Park offering dark night time skies, peace and tranquillity with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal.”*

- **(5) Contrasting Patterns, Colours, and Textures**

*“A working, living “patchwork” of contrasting patterns, colours and textures comprising well-maintained farmed landscapes, open uplands, lakes and meandering rivers, punctuated by small-scale woodlands, country lanes, hedgerows and stone walls and scattered settlements, grouped around landscape, community, experiences and wildlife.”*

- **(6) Intimate Sense of Community**

*“An intimate sense of community where small, pastoral towns and villages are comparatively safe, friendly, welcoming and retain a spirit of cooperation”.*

- **(7) Sense of Place and Cultural Identity**

*“A sense of place and cultural identity – “Welshness” - characterised by the indigenous Welsh language, religious and spiritual connections, unique customs and events, traditional foods and crafts, relatively unspoilt historic towns and villages, family farms and continued practices of traditional skills developed by local inhabitants to live and earn a living here, such as common land practices and grazing.”*

- **(8) Enjoyable and Accessible**

*“Enjoyable and accessible countryside with extensive, widespread and varied opportunities to pursue walking, cycling, fishing, water-based activities and other forms of sustainable recreation or relaxation.”*

- **(9) Sense of Discovery**

*“A sense of discovery where people explore the Park’s hidden secrets and stories such as genealogical histories, prehistoric ritual Sites, relic medieval rural settlements, early industrial Sites, local myths and legends and geological treasures from time immemorial.”*



- **(10) Mosaic of Diversity**

*“The geology and climate vary greatly across the Park creating an elaborate patchwork landscape rich in biodiversity. The Park hosts heathlands, grasslands and woodlands, with uplands and lowlands, natural lakes and riparian habitats. The Park contains limestone pavement and blanket bogs of international and national importance. Several endangered species survive in the Park, including some for which the Park is their furthest extent of their natural range.”*

1.9 With respect to potential indirect effects on the special qualities of the BBNP, possible indirect effects would be limited to special qualities which list distinct visual or perceptual scenic traits that have the potential to experience change as a result of the proposals assessed herein. As such, three special qualities of the BBNP have been identified for further consideration, and these have been assessed below.

**Assessment of Effects to Special Qualities of the BBNP**

1.10 The effect to the special qualities of the BBNP are assessed in **Table EDP 1.1**.

**Table EDP 1.1:** BBNP Special Qualities Assessment of Effects

Special Quality	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
(1) Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> Not Significant
	As a national designation the special quality is of very high value. The “ <i>harmoniously connected landscape</i> ” render it of very high susceptibility due to its scenic quality.	The Proposed Development would not limit the “ <i>extensive views</i> ”, nor would it alter any physical features of the ‘ <i>harmoniously connected landscape</i> ’ itself and the openness of views available would not be changed. The character of the sweeping grandeur would also remain unchanged. The Proposed Development would be perceptible in southerly views from prominent hilltops intervisible with the Site, such as The Blorenge and the Sugar Loaf, but the proposals would not alter the availability of “ <i>extensive views in all directions</i> ” and the field of view in which the proposals would be seen would be 10 degrees at most of the 360 degree hilltop views assessed within the 26km study area.	A very high sensitivity and a very low magnitude of change results in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> level of effect.  This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
(3) Sounds, sights, smells and tastes	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> Not Significant
	As a national designation the special quality is of very high value. The susceptibility to development beyond the BBNP boundary varies depending on the scale of the landscape perceived and what other visual detractors are present within the wider setting.	Although the proposals would be visible from some outward views from (some 12% at most of the part of the BBNP which is within the study area), the intrinsic value associated with the sensory experiences associated with this special quality would be largely unaffected by the Proposed Development due to the vast extent of the BBNP. The addition of the proposals to the wider setting of the BBNP would be perceptible, however, and the worst affected areas would at its closest point to the proposals, e.g. from the south-eastern extents of the BBNP. From this location, the Proposed Development would be seen in views from the edge of the BBNP ( <b>PVP 16 – Figure 6.12</b> ). In these views, the proposals would be perceived as an addition to a settled landscape context. Overall, the change to the rural setting would be nominal when this special quality of the BBNP is considered	A very high sensitivity and a very low magnitude of change results in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> level of effect.  This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.

Special Quality	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		in the round. Discreet parts of the BBNP would be affected, 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 “ <i>fresh air, clean water, ... open land and locally produced foods</i> ”.	
(4) Peace, tranquillity, and darkness	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> Not Significant
	As a national designation the special quality is of very high value. The tranquil qualities and dark night skies of the BBNP render it susceptible to moving and lit development.	The addition of proposed turbines, although not located within the BBNP, would partially reduce the level of tranquillity within the BBNP from the south and south-eastern extents when visible. The layout and pattern of the array would generally appear evenly spread across similar height contours. Where multiple turbines overlap and busy the skyline, the tranquillity of the landscape is reduced. The field of view likely to be affected from views assessed in the PVP assessment ranges from 28 degrees at worst to 5 degrees at best. The Proposed Development would also have a nominal change to the dark skies core as a whole, given the limited extent of visibility from within the BBNP. 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 result in a barely noticeable change to the tranquillity of the BBNP and the dark skies core as a whole.	A very high sensitivity and a very low magnitude of change results in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> level of effect.  This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.



- 1.11 In summary, the visual and perceptual characteristics associated with the special qualities of the BBNP assessed herein are two of many components that make up the special qualities listed in the Management Plan. The extent of the BBNP stretches far beyond the study area, however, where visual and perceptual qualities of the landscape character within the study area are concerned, the scale, geographical extent and proportion of the proposals likely to be perceived is limited a single perspective from elevated locations that overlap with the ZTV.
- 1.12 From such areas, such as a slope or plateau, sweeping 360 degree hilltop views are typically available from these exposed uplands, and the field of view likely to be affected is a very small proportion. Furthermore, the proposals are mostly at a sufficient distance to constitute a very minor alteration to the peace, tranquillity, views and remoteness of the BBNP as a whole. The exception to this is from discreet parts of the BBNP, such as to south-east, where the proposals would result in a noticeable addition to the skyline. In such views, the proposals would typically be perceived in combination with settled valleys and infrastructure.
- 1.13 In summary, none of the special qualities of the BBNP are found to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development assessed at operation, or at construction. A **Moderate/Minor** level of effect which is Not Significant was found for each of the special qualities assessed above. These effects are considered worst case, which is at operation.
- 1.14 The rest of the special qualities of the BBNP have been scoped out from the character assessment as the rest largely relate to physical characteristics and cultural connections focussed on within BBNP itself and these are unlikely be altered to such a degree as to result in indirect changes or significant landscape effects from the development proposed.
- 1.15 The visual effects at night-time and daytime have been assessed separately in **Chapter 6** of the Environmental Statement.

#### ***BBNP Published Landscape Character Assessment***

- 1.16 The BBNP is divided into 15 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the '*Beacon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment (August 2012)*'. 12 LCAs are located within the 26km study area as illustrated on **Figure 6.16**. The Site is outwith the BBNP therefore none of the LCAs would experience direct physical or direct perceptual landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development.
- 1.17 Potential landscape effects and therefore likely change to landscape character would only be experienced from parts of the BBNP with a visual connection to the Proposed Development. Six LCAs with coverage of greater than 1% of the LCA were found to overlap with ZTV to tip and these six LCAs are assessed below. Those with less than 1% coverage are not considered to have the potential to result in significant effects.
- 1.18 The BBNP Landscape Character Assessment lists special qualities of each LCA. These include "*scenic quality and sense of place*", and "*perceptual qualities*" among others. The two aforementioned qualities, which are relevant to this assessment, are listed for each LCA below.



The following LCAs assessed herein are listed in order of distance between the LCA and Site boundaries below:

- **LCA 15: Blorenge Hills and Slopes**

Scenic quality and sense of place: *“High scenic quality resulting from the harmonious juxtaposition of moorland, woodland and pasture.”*

Perceptual qualities: *Exceptionally peaceful valley sides. “Moorland feels more open and exposed, with longer views over surrounding landscapes.”*

- **LCA 9: Mynydd Llangatwg and Llangynidr**

Scenic quality and sense of place: The LCA has scenic quality and sense of place created by *“openness, landform...and views to distinctive skylines in other LCAs”*.

Perceptual Qualities: *“Exceptionally open and exposed landscape”* with an *“absence of settlement”*. It has a sense of *“tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness in parts”*. *“The western part is within the BBNP core dark skies area.”*

- **LCA 12: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf**

Scenic quality and sense of place: *“High scenic quality and sense of place, resulting from the composition of soft, wooded valleys and distinctive uplands.”*

Perceptual qualities: Sense of tranquillity created by long views, openness and elevation.

- **LCA 13: The Black Mountains**

Scenic quality and sense of place: *“elevation, panoramic views, dramatic and distinctive topography, historic Sites, and traditional land uses”* give the LCA a strong sense of place and high scenic quality.

Perceptual qualities: *“large-scale landscape, with a strong sense of openness and expansiveness on higher ground”*. The landscape is *“bleak, exposed and disorientating”* in poor weather. There is a strong sense of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness across the extensive commons with very few detractors. Great sense of enclosure within valleys with slightly less of a sense of remoteness.

- **LCA 8: Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys**

Scenic quality and sense of place: *“high scenic quality and sense of place, which is heightened by views to the Central Beacons and other high land on the horizons”*.



Perceptual qualities: “Sense of tranquillity and relative remoteness”, “open views experienced across lakes and from higher ground” The LCA is located within the BBNP core dark skies which “enhances the sense of tranquillity”.

- **LCA 7: Central Beacons**

Scenic quality and sense of place: “Iconic landscape” in the heart of the BBNP. “Exceptionally high scenic quality...strong sense of place resulting from its elevation, dramatic and distinctive topography, and panoramic views.”

Perceptual qualities: “high levels of tranquillity” due to openness, naturalness, low noise and dark skies. Few landscape detractors. Numbers of people present on paths and summits reduces sense of tranquillity. Sense of remoteness created by inaccessibility, landform and absence of settlement. Sense of wildness. Hostile in poor weather conditions.

### **Assessment of Landscape Effects to BBNP Landscape Character Areas**

1.19 The effects to the BBNP LCAs are assessed below at **Table EDP 1.2**.

**Table EDP 1.2:** BBNP LCA Assessment of Effects

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
<b>LCA 15</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>
	LCA15 is of high landscape value. The peaceful valley sides and long views from higher ground renders the landscape highly susceptible to change.	<p>LCA 15: Blorenge Hills and Slopes is c.4.1km to the NE of the Site at its closest point and all of LCA15 is within the study area. Approximately 12.7% of the LCA overlaps with the ZTV to tip.</p> <p>The change to the landscape character would therefore be limited to west and south-westerly views from a small part LCA. The wider LCA covers the eastern side of a ridgeline that runs north-south to the east of the Site. 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 <b>PVP 16</b> and <b>22 (Figure 6.12)</b>. From within the LCA directly east of the Site from where views of the Proposed Development can be gained, the addition of the proposed turbines would be clearly noticeable which in turn would have an impact on the harmonious juxtaposition of the landscape habitats experienced from parts of this LCA due to the introduction of manmade vertical features. Further north, however, their addition to the skyline would be evident but not fundamentally alter views, these long views are a key characteristic of the LCA but overall, the change would only be experienced across a small part of the LCA as a whole.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to LCA 15 is considered Low.</p>	<p>A very high sensitivity and a low magnitude of change result in a <b>Moderate</b> adverse effect.</p> <p>This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and <b>Significant</b>.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects: LCA 15: Blorenge Hills and Slopes</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML when assessed in isolation, only 12.7% of the LCA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from 12.7% of the LCA. The theoretical visibility identified is almost exclusively restricted to the most western edge of the LCA (and National Park).</p>	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the LCA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 1-5 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the LCA would theoretically have up to 11-15 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML such as from The Bloreng.</p> <p>Photoviewpoints from this LCA include <b>PVP 16</b> and <b>PVP 22</b> (Cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that operational schemes (in green) are barely perceptible due to intervening landform). In such views it is clear that the addition of ML to Scenario A would result in almost exactly the same view as with ML alone. The magnitude of change would therefore not alter from that assessed above, and although this necessarily leads to a significant effect, the extent of cumulative change in actuality is <i>de minimis</i>.</p>	
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, only 12.7% of the LCA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 12.7% of the LCA. The theoretical visibility identified is almost exclusively restricted to the most western edge of the LCA (and National Park).</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the LCA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived mostly in combination within the range of 6-15 wind farms in Scenario B. A very small proportion of the LCA would theoretically have up to 16-20 developments visible in combination with ML, such as from The Bloreng.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 16</b> and <b>PVP 22</b> (<b>Figure 6.35</b>) have been prepared which illustrate Scenario B. The cumulative wireframes show that from <b>PVP 16</b> and <b>PVP 22</b>, the schemes in this scenario 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 only. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would alter the</p>	<p><b>Moderate and Significant</b></p>

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p>perceived spread of wind farm areas by partially infilling gaps between other schemes. 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 and Abertillery 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.</p> <p>Overall, this would result in a retained low magnitude of change to LCA 15, as the addition of ML would lead to a minor alteration to a view already significantly altered by turbine development, which would have an indirect landscape effect on the character area. The effect would not be uncharacteristic in Scenario B, however, and furthermore, ML is demonstrably not the main scheme or the lead contributing factor to the significant cumulative effects arising.</p>	
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario A and B.</p>	
<b>LCA 9</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
	<p>LCA 9 is of very high value. The remoteness and tranquillity provided by the open and exposed landscape, along with its dark skies in the west render this LCA very highly susceptible to change. The level of susceptibility varies depending on the tranquillity experienced at present in views towards the Site. A</p>	<p>LCA9 is c.10.2km to the NW of the Site at its closest point. All of the LCA is within the study area and c.35.6% of the LCA overlaps with the ZTV to tip.</p> <p>Views to distinctive skylines in other LCAs is a characteristic of this LCA; this would remain unaffected as the proposals would not be perceived in combination with other BBNP LCAs due to the direction and distance to Site.</p> <p>Change to remoteness varies as shown by <b>PVPs 25, 27 and 28 (Figure 6.35)</b> which represent views towards the Site from high points within the LCA. <b>PVP 25 and 27</b> illustrated that settled valleys are also perceived in some views south towards the Site, therefore the sense of remoteness is already reduced in the baseline scenario.</p>	<p>A very high sensitivity and a very low magnitude of change result in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> adverse effect.</p> <p>This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>



LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
	sensitivity of the LCA noted within the BBNP LCA is to "inappropriate development (including outside the National Park) which affects skylines and/or views".	<p><b>PVP 28</b>, which is at a higher elevation than the other two, has very little manmade features perceptible from this LCA, therefore, the introduction of the proposals in southerly views could be considered to affect the sense of remoteness from some parts of the LCA. A large proportion of the LCA would remain completely unaffected as there is no intervisibility with the proposals.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to LCA 9 as a whole is considered very low.</p>	
<b>Cumulative Effects: LCA9: Mynyddoedd Llangatwg and Llangynidr</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 21-25 operational and consented wind farm developments across this LCA. Only two consented schemes are identified within the study area and neither are visible from representative viewpoints within this LCA (<b>PVPs 25, 27, and 28 (Figure 6.35)</b>). The cumulative magnitude of change would not differ to the baseline assessment and would be very low.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor and Not Significant</b>
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> ML would be seen theoretically in combination with up to 35 other wind farm developments at most from the highest contours of the LCA. The cumulative magnitude of change as a whole when all wind farms are considered would be medium. This results in a change to a 'wind farm landscape' character in views south, with schemes perceived as breaking the skyline which are spread across the horizon in distant views. However, ML in addition to these cumulative schemes would result in partial clustering of turbines from a limited perspective (e.g. <b>PVP 27 (Figure 6.35)</b>) and extending (infilling) turbine presence in others (e.g. <b>PVP 28</b>), but the addition of ML itself would only be a minor to negligible addition (height and extent) to this scenario. The magnitude of change with the addition of ML would therefore be very low.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor and Not Significant</b>
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for both scenarios.</p>	
<b>LCA 12</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor and Not Significant</b>
	LCA 12 is of high value. The combination of long views	LCA12 is c.13.4km to the NE of the Site at its closest and all of the LCA is within the study area. Approximately 7.4% of the LCA overlaps with the ZTV to tip.	A very high sensitivity and a low magnitude of

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
	<p>provided from high points such as the Sugar Loaf, the open landscape, high scenic quality and high sense of tranquillity render the LCA is highly susceptible to change.</p>	<p>As shown on the ZTV, the Site is likely only to be perceived from high ground around the Sugar Loaf and Skirrid. Views from the Sugar Loaf are represented in <b>PVP 26 (Figure 6.35)</b>. Due to its distance, the proposals would only occupy approximately 6 degrees of the view. Where it is most visible, the Proposed Development would be evident but not fundamentally alter the sense of tranquillity or enjoyment of the high scenic quality experienced. Over 90% of the LCA would be completely unaffected by the proposals.</p> <p>The magnitude of change on LCA 12 as a whole would be very low.</p>	<p>change result in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> adverse effect.</p> <p>This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>
	<b>Cumulative Effects: LCA12: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 1-5 operational and consented wind farm developments at most from the highest contours of this LCA. The cumulative magnitude of change would not differ to the baseline assessment and would be very low.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> ML would be seen in combination with potentially 6-10 other wind farm developments at most from any one location within the LCA. The cumulative magnitude of change as a whole when all wind farms are considered would be medium. This results from a change to a 'wind farm landscape' character, with all schemes perceived in distant views SW.</p> <p>However, ML in addition to these cumulative schemes would only result in some grouping of turbines in south westerly perspectives (e.g. <b>PVP 26 (Figure 6.35)</b>), adding to a distant 'wind farm landscape' character. Generally, ML would comprise a nominal addition (height and extent) to the other turbines theoretically visible and result in a very low magnitude of change should all other schemes proceed.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>
<b>LCA 13</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
	<p>LCA 13 is of very high value. The combination of high scenic quality and very few</p>	<p>LCA13 is vast and ranges from c.16.9km, from the nearest turbine proposed, to beyond the study area extent of 27km. Of the part of the LCA within 27km of the Site, approximately 14.7% of the LCA within the study area overlaps with the ZTV to tip.</p>	<p>A very high sensitivity and a very low magnitude of change</p>

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
	detractors render the LCA susceptible to change.	<p>The change to the landscape character would be limited to the perceptual and visual qualities of the LCA caused by the introduction of the proposal on the skyline in available views south. As shown on the ZTV, the proposal is likely to only be visible from high ground in the direction of the Site. Due to its distance, the Site would from only a minor constituent at most from a sufficient distance. Roughly 85% of the LCA would be completely unaffected by the proposals. Although the presence of the Proposed Development may detract from the sense of remoteness, due to its very limited scale within the view, this would be to a very minor degree.</p> <p>The magnitude of change on LCA 13 as a whole would be very low.</p>	<p>result in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> adverse effect.</p> <p>This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects: LCA13: The Black Mountains</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> ML could theoretically be perceived in combination with up to 25 operational and consented wind farm developments at worst from the highest elevations of this LCA. The vast majority of the LCA (85%) would be unaffected by the proposals in combination with other schemes, however. Where ZTVs do overlap, the very limited number of consented developments (three) with one (Rush Wall Redwick) c.40km SE of this LCA and both adjacent to existing operational schemes ensures that the cumulative magnitude of change would not differ to the baseline assessment (which includes operational schemes) and would be very low.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> At most, ML could theoretically be perceived in combination with up to 35 other wind farm developments from two points within the LCA, limited to summits. The cumulative magnitude of change would be low, resulting from an increased density of wind turbines and ‘windfarm’ landscape character to distant views S/SE. ML could result in a partial clustering of turbines in southerly views when perceived in the context of schemes currently in scoping/planning (e.g. Mynydd Maen, Trecelyn and Abertillery). In combination with other schemes the magnitude of change (all of which offer potential for indirect landscape effects only) to the LCA would be limited to a maximum of 15% intervisibility with cumulative scenarios at most, this is further limited to southerly aspects. As an additional scheme assessed against a future baseline where all schemes in planning and scoping are also</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>



LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		developed, the magnitude of change would not exceed very low as the addition of ML to this scene is nominal.	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant.	
<b>LCA 8</b>	<b>Very High</b>  LCA8 is of very high value. Its relationship with the Central Beacons (north) LCA heightens its susceptibility to change.	<b>Very Low</b>  LCA8 ranges from c.19.2km to the nearest turbine proposed to beyond the 26km study area. Approximately 8.8% of the LCA within the study area overlaps with the ZTV to tip.  A key characteristic of the LCA are the open views experienced across lakes and from higher ground and views into the adjacent character area (Central Beacons) to the NW. There would be no change to these characteristics as a result of the proposals as the Site is located to the SE (e.g. in the opposite direction to the Central Beacons).  The magnitude of change to LCA8 as a whole is very low at most.	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant  <b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant



LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
<b>Cumulative Effects: LCA8: Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys</b>			
		<b>Scenario A:</b> ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 11-15 operational and consented wind farm developments at most across this LCA. The magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would not change, and being very low would not lead to additional cumulative effects on the LCA.	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<b>Scenario B:</b> ML could potentially be seen in combination with up to 25, at most, other wind farm developments from any one location within the LCA covered by the ZTV, and from a very small proportion of the LCA as a whole. Generally, the other schemes would only be visible from summits, with other areas within the ZTV being wooded making therefore intervisibility unlikely. ML is difficult to discern from within LCA 8, therefore the magnitude of change when considered in isolation is deemed very low at most. There are a number of schemes that would intervene in views towards ML such that the addition is unlikely to be discernible. Therefore, the cumulative effect of ML when perceived in addition to other schemes in scenario B would also be very low at most.	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant.	
<b>LCA 7</b>	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
	LCA 7 is of very high value. It's surrounded by other BBNP LCAs which have few detracting features therefore it is very highly susceptible to change. The BBNP LCA refers to "development within or outside the LCA which impacts on views from summits" as a sensitivity of LCA 7.	LCA7 ranges from c.21.9km from the nearest turbine proposed to beyond the 26km study area. Of the part of the LCA within 26km of the Site, approximately 26.9% of the LCA within the study area overlaps with the ZTV to tip.  The change to landscape character would be limited to perceptual and visual effects caused by the introduction of the array to the skyline in south-easterly views. As shown by the ZTV, the Site is likely to only be visible from highest ground. <b>PVP 30 (Figure 6.35)</b> is taken from within the LCA, and in this view, the proposals would occupy c.5 degrees. Given this is only one perspective from a trig point with 360 panoramas available, the sense of wildness together with dark skies and the other perceptual qualities associated with the LCA would only be marginally altered in some instances due to the aspect and extent of the LCA within the ZTV, as well as the distance between the Site and this landscape receptor.	A very high sensitivity and a low magnitude of change result in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> adverse effect.  This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		The magnitude of change to LCA 7 as a whole is very low.	
	<b>Cumulative Effects: LCA7: Central Beacons</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> ML could theoretically be perceived in combination with up to 25 operational and consented wind farm developments at most from parts of this LCA, with intervisibility restricted to summits. The magnitude of change to this LCA resulting from the Proposed Development would not change from the baseline which considers existing operational schemes and would remain very low as a whole.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>
		<p><b>Scenario B: Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the LCA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with up to 35 wind farms in Scenario B at most. The number of wind farms theoretically visible reduces as the contours of the LCA fall. From <b>PVP 30</b> for instance, 25-30 wind farms are theoretically visible. A cumulative wireframe from <b>PVP 30</b> illustrates Scenario B. The schemes visible in this scenario would result in a change in the landscape character to a ‘wind farm landscape’, with turbines breaking the skyline. ML is not the leading contributor to this however, nor does it tip the balance as cumulative effects in this scenario would be significant without the addition of ML in any event.</p> <p>The distribution of the other wind farms is mostly grouped and concentrated in one area in the far distance, and this is limited to south-easterly views. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would alter the perceived spread of wind farm areas by partially infilling gaps between other schemes. Overall, this would result in a low magnitude of change to LCA 7, as the addition of ML would lead to a minor alteration at most, which would have an indirect landscape effect on the character area. The alteration would not be uncharacteristic in Scenario B, however, and there would be a significant effect due to the number and distribution of other wind farms perceived in Scenario B. Given the distance of ML from the character area, as well as the amount of other wind farm developments which could be perceived, ML would not be perceived as the main scheme or the lead contributing factor to cumulative effects arising.</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b></p>

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario B only.	

- 1.19 One of the published BBNP LCAs was found to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development when assessed in isolation. A moderate adverse significant effect was found for LCA 15. There would be a minor alteration to the perceptual qualities experienced from this LCA as the addition of proposals would be perceived at a medium distance which would reduce the peace and tranquillity of the landscape, albeit from less than 15% of this LCA. No significant effects were found for the rest of the LCAs assessed above when ML alone was considered. All effects reported are worst case, which is at operation.
- 1.20 Cumulative landscape effects have also been reviewed for the published BBNP LCAs, and two scenarios have been considered. Scenario A assesses the cumulative landscape effects of the Proposed Development when perceived in addition to operational and consented schemes within 27km. Significant effects were found in Scenario A only for LCA 15 Bloreng Hills, with the actual extent of cumulative change at a *de minimis* level.
- 1.21 Scenario B assesses the cumulative landscape effects of the Proposed Development when perceived in addition to operational and consented schemes, and also those in planning and in scoping within 27km. The assessment found that two of the BBNP LCAs, LCA 15: Bloreng Hills and Slopes and LCA 7: Central Beacons, are likely to experience significant cumulative effects. LCA 7 is likely to experience significant cumulative effects in Scenario B only.
- 1.22 The magnitude of change in both cases, however, was found to be low as the Proposed Development, when considered in addition to other schemes in Scenario B, would only result in a minor alteration to the cumulative scenario. In both cases, the other schemes considered under Scenario B comprise the main contributors towards the cumulative effect, and the Proposed Development was not considered to be the main scheme of the resulting cumulative effects in any instance. In no circumstance was the Proposed Development found to extend the extent of development perceived on the skyline, rather it infilled gaps where other proposals were already considered, such as in Scenario B. Where significant effects are found in Scenario B, significant effects would be evident both with and without the addition of the Proposed Development due to the number and distribution of other wind farm developments considered in the scenario.

## **A6H.2 Wye Valley National Landscape**

- 1.23 The Wye Valley National Landscape Management Plan 2021–2026 (2021) produced by the Wye Valley NL Joint Advisory Council provides descriptions of special qualities of the NL and sets out Landscape Management Zones (LMZ) along with their associated special qualities. There are 27 defined special qualities.

1.24 Due to the distance between the Site and the NL at its closest point (some c.21.3km distant), only visual and perceptual qualities of the NL within the ZTV have the potential to experience change as a result of the Proposed Development. Other qualities, such as physical characteristics, would not be changed. The special qualities defined within the NL that are relevant to visual and perceptual characteristics and have therefore been assessed are as follows:

- Special Quality 11: Picturesque, extensive and dramatic views (SQ11); and
- Special Quality 12: Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness/wildness (SQ12).

1.25 **Figure 6.16** shows LMZs that overlap with the ZTV to tip, and these are listed below along with the associated special qualities considered relevant to this assessment:

- LMZ 12 Llangovan Foothills: SQ11 “*Long distance views*”;
- LMZ 13 Devauden Escarpment: SQ11 “*Long panoramic views to the north and west*”; and
- LMZ 14 Trellech Sandstone Plateau: SQ11 “*Long views and vistas across the Severn and towards the Brecon Beacons from high land.*” SQ12 “*Distinct sense of place from the relationship of the woodland, pasture and settlement.*”

1.26 The predicted effects to these NL LMZs are assessed below at **Table EDP 1.3**.

**Table EDP 1.3:** NL LMZ Assessment of Effects.

LMZ	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
12	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor Not Significant</b>
	LMZ12 is of very high value. Its susceptibility to change is variable and depends on the direction and distance of the expansive views referenced, composition of the baseline views, and the number of detractors perceived.	<p>LMZ12 is a small area on the edge of the NL and it is c.21.3km to the NE of the nearest turbine proposed. Approximately 42.1% of the LMZ overlaps with the ZTV to tip.</p> <p>The proposals would be perceived in the background of expansive south-westerly views, which are typically framed or filtered by vegetated field boundaries and roads. Views out of the NL in the direction of the Site are typically vast and far reaching across gently undulating low land that contains built form. Other Parts of the LMZ is bordered by the A40. Where higher parts of the LMZ overlap with the ZTV, the proposals would be perceptible in the far distance in the background of the view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to LMZ would be very low overall.</p>	<p>A very high sensitivity and a low magnitude of change result in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> adverse effect.</p> <p>This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>
13	<b>Very High</b>	<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor Not Significant</b>
	LMZ13 is of very high value. Its susceptibility to change is variable and depends on the composition of the baseline views, and the amount of detractors perceived.	<p>LMZ13 ranges from c.21.8km to the nearest turbine proposed and extends to beyond the 26km study area. Of the part of the LCA that is within the 26km study area, approximately 55% overlaps with the ZTV to tip.</p> <p>Effects to the character of LMZ13 would be limited to its perceptual characteristics and specifically to "Long panoramic views" west. <b>PVP 29 (Figure 6.12)</b> is an example of a view west and the proposals would be perceptible in the background of the view. Other views towards the proposals from within this LMZ would be limited by the screening effects of vegetation which is also characteristic of the landscape. Where visible, however, the proposals would form a minor component of a given view. In most instances, settlement and infrastructure would also be perceived in such views.</p>	<p>A very high sensitivity and a low magnitude of change result in a <b>Moderate/Minor</b> adverse effect.</p> <p>This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>



LMZ	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p>The field of view affected from such a distance would also be a very small proportion of any panorama available. There would be no change to other special qualities of the LMZ and given the limited extent to which the Proposed Development would change perceptual characteristics, the magnitude of change to LMZ 13 as a whole is considered to be very low.</p>	
14	<p><b>Very High</b></p> <p>LMZ14 is of very high value. Its susceptibility to change is variable and depends on the composition of the baseline views, and the amount of detractors perceived.</p>	<p><b>Imperceptible</b></p> <p>LMZ14 ranges from c.22.6km to the nearest turbine proposed and extends to beyond the 26km study area. Of the part of the LCA that is within the 26km, approximately 55% overlaps with the ZTV to tip.</p> <p>The addition of the proposals where perceived in the background of available views to the west would not alter the relationship between woodland, pasture and settlement that gives this LMZ its sense of place. The proposed development is at such a distance, however, that it would be a minor component within such views which contains development and infrastructure interspersed and visible from a distance. The rest of the special qualities of the LMZ would be unaffected.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to LMZ14 as a whole is considered to be imperceptible.</p>	<p><b>Negligible</b> Not Significant</p> <p><b>Negligible</b> effect.</p> <p>This effect would be long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>

- 1.27 In summary, of the NL LMZs that overlap with the ZTV to tip, none were found to have any significant effects.
- 1.28 LMZ 13 and LMZ 14 reference long distance views west, and the proposals would be perceived as a very small component in the background of the view, therefore the landscape effect is considered **Moderate/Minor** and Not Significant for both. The rest of the LMZs assessed were found to have **Negligible** effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

### A6H.3 Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site

- 1.29 **Figure 6.16** illustrates the location of the BILWHS in relation to the Site; BILWHS is located c.2.7km from the nearest turbine proposed at its closest point. The World Heritage Site is broadly characterised by unenclosed uplands, settled valleys and relict industrial features such as spoil heaps, quarries and mineshafts.
- 1.30 Approximately 24.1% of the BILWHS overlaps with the ZTV to tip. Of the Historic Landscape LANDMAP aspect areas that have been assessed at **Appendix 6D**, the following overlap with BILWHS and the ZTV to tip:

**Table EDP 1.4** Historic Landscape Aspect Areas within the BILWHS and the ZTV to Tip

Aspect Area ID	Area Name
TRFNHL015	HL015 Cwm Afon
TRFNHL020	HL020 Mynydd Coety
TRFNHL022	HL022 Mynydd y Garn-fawr

- 1.31 BILWHS is a distinctive landscape with a strong sense of place. It is considered of very high value due to its historical and cultural significance associations. It's susceptibility to change is considered high as a whole due to the intrinsic relationship between the landscape and the historic settled valley, although the fabric of surrounding built form and addition of manmade features is currently perceived in the landscape and postmodern development influences the character of the BILWHS and lowers its susceptibility to change. 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 character of the fabric of the protected landscape including its relics would not change fundamentally. As shown by the ZTV to tip, the areas from which the Proposed Development is likely to be visible is limited to areas of exposed high ground.
- 1.32 Overall, the magnitude of change to the character of BILWHS would be low as although the Proposed Development would result in additional manmade and modern features seen from parts of the BILWHS, the perceived change would be limited to c.24.1% of the WHS at most and the proportion of any given view affected would not alter any key characteristics associated with BILWHS which are perceptible in the modern landscape.

1.33 In the round, the level of effect on the character of the BILWHS as a whole would be **Moderate/Minor** adverse. This effect is indirect, long-term, reversible and Not Significant.

#### **A6H.4 Special Landscape Areas and Visually Important Local Landscapes**

1.34 The effects to the SLAs and VILLs are assessed individually, and presented in tables which are broken down in accordance with the associated administrative authority.

1.35 With respect to 'host SLAs', three are located within or adjacent to the Site and Proposed Development, including access routes, and would experience direct effects. These are as follows:

- Blaenau Gwent SLA D – Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James;
- Blaenau Gwent SLA E – St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides; and
- Torfaen County Borough Council SLA H – Western Uplands.

1.36 Physical effects would include the 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 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.

1.37 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 measures within the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

1.38 Therefore, although of high value and sensitivity, direct effects on host SLAs (in terms of landscape fabric) would not affect the openness of the landscape and field patterns in the vicinity.

1.39 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, dynamic 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 seven 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.

- 1.40 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 proposed turbine, 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 Proposed 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.
- 1.41 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 the low magnitude of direct change to a small area of the SLA and high indirect changes to an extensive area of the SLA (from where turbines may be visible as represented by the ZTV), overall changes to the character of this SLA are judged to be of high magnitude, leading to **Major/Moderate** adverse and **Significant** effects.
- 1.42 The Proposed Development would not be visible from approximately half 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 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 changes to this SLA would be of high magnitude, leading to **Major/Moderate** adverse and **Significant** effects.
- 1.43 In total, there are eight SLAs in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council within a 15km study area as illustrated on **Figure 6.15**. The Site overlaps with SLA E St. Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides, therefore SLA E only, in this LPA area, would experience direct physical and perceptual landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development alone.
- 1.44 The landscape effects to Blaenau Gwent Borough Council SLAs are assessed below at **Table EDP 1.5**.

**Table EDP 1.5:** Blaenau Gwent Borough Council SLA Assessment of Effects

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>A) Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and <b>Significant</b> .
		<p>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. There are no direct effects as the proposals are outside the SLA. Approximately 50% of this SLA is located within the ZTV of the Proposed Development however, and this intervisibility is generally confined to east facing slopes and ridgeline summit. Comprising important ecological habitats, it also notes “<i>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.</i>” The Proposed Development would not affect its intrinsic “<i>Well-preserved pattern of pre-industrial farmland of small rectangular fields with distinctive stone walls and overgrown beech hedges</i>”, nor would it affect the distinctive skylines within the SLA which management policies aim to conserve by resisting “<i>large-scale development, including tree planting, especially on skylines</i>”. The Proposed Development would alter a small section of wide panoramic views (indirect landscape effect) from this SLA directed south-east.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to SLA A is considered Medium.</p>	
	<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA A: Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail</b>		
		<b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>



<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 1-5 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 16-20 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, but this is limited to the two most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p><b>PVP 10</b> is taken from this SLA (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that very few operational schemes (in green) are perceptible in combination with the site). Given that one of the SLAs key characteristics is key views to other ridges however, the magnitude of change is considered medium.</p>	
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms in Scenario B at most from the summits. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 10 (Figure 6.35)</b> have been prepared which illustrates Scenario B. This view is not from a summit in SLA A, but on further assessment it is clear that two schemes proposed within the SLA itself would be perceived from the</p>	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>summit and in this scenario would result in a change in the landscape character to a 'wind farm landscape', with turbines perceived on ridgelines which would be spaced out along the horizon. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by neighbouring ridgelines.</p> <p>Overall, this would result in a retained medium magnitude of change to SLA A, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML which would be perceived on a neighbouring ridge, would lead to a perceived alteration to a view already altered by wind farm development within the SLA itself. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario A and B.	
<b>B) Mynydd Bedwelty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		SLA B Mynydd Bedwelty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides 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.	





<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		The magnitude of change to SLA B is considered low.	
<b>Cumulative Effects: Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 6-10 operational and consented developments. A small proportion in the most northern section of the SLA would theoretically have up to 11-15 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, and a very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 16-20 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML. This is limited to the two most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p><b>PVP 19</b> is taken from this SLA (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that very few operational schemes (in green) are perceptible in combination with the site). Given that one of the SLAs key characteristics is “outward distant panoramic views”, there would be a minor alteration to this key characteristic, resulting in the magnitude of change being considered low.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms at</p>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 19 (Figure 6.35)</b> have been prepared which illustrates Scenario B. This view is from a summit in SLA B, so provides a 'worst-case' view from the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by neighbouring ridgelines and beyond, which would change long-distance views east from this SLA to a wind farm character.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA B would be medium, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be perceived on a distant ridge, would lead to a partial alteration to an otherwise open, panoramic view. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a noticeable but non-fundamental alteration to the baseline of SLA B.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario B.	
<b>C) Beaufort Common</b>	High	<p>Direct effects – N/A</p> <p>Indirect effects – Low-Very Low</p>	<p>Direct effects: N/A</p> <p>Indirect effects: <b>Minor</b></p> <p>This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>
		<p>SLA C Beaufort Common is located c.11km north-west of the Site, at its nearest point. The Proposed Development is likely to be visible from c.60% of the SLA and visual influences are typically focused on views over adjacent built form and valleys.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to SLA C is considered Low-Very Low.</p>	



<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
	<b>Cumulative Effects: Beaufort Common</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 60% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 60% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 6-10 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 11-15 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML.</p> <p>No PVP was taken from this SLA. <b>PVP 25</b> is the closest representation of the SLA, and was taken from the north-west of the area (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b>). Operational schemes would be barely perceptible in combination with the Site from SLA C and would at most result in a slight alteration to the landscape, leading to the magnitude of change being considered Low/Very Low.</p>	<p><b>Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 60% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes, plus those in scoping and in planning, from 60% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 16-20 wind farms at most from the highest ground in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>The nearest cumulative wireframes that represent the SLA, are found at <b>PVP 25 (Figure 6.35)</b>, and have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would slightly alter the perceived spread of wind farm areas across distant ridgelines, but it would be barely discernible.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA C would be low, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be barely perceived on a distant ridge, would lead to a minor alteration at most to an otherwise open, panoramic view. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a slight alteration to the baseline of SLA C.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.</p>	



<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>D) Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James</b>	High	Direct effects – Low Indirect effects – High	Direct effects: <b>Moderate-Minor</b> Indirect effects: <b>Major/Moderate</b> This effect would be adverse, direct, long-term, reversible, and <b>Significant</b> .
		<p>SLA D Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James crosses into the west of the site area. Key characteristics for the SLA includes “<i>panoramic views</i>”, “<i>attractive backdrops to settlements</i>” and “<i>prominent skylines</i>”.</p> <p>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 “<i>conserve ‘unspoilt’ qualities</i>” including to “<i>Resist large-scale development, including tree planting, especially on skylines</i>”. The skyline of the SLA would be directly affected by the Proposed Development which clearly contradicts this objective (albeit only one turbine proposed would be within the respective SLA).</p> <p>The direct magnitude of change to SLA D is considered Low. The indirect magnitude of change to SLA D is considered High.</p>	
	<b>Cumulative Effects: Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James</b>		
		<b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 50% of the SLA. The non-windfarm scheme at Tir Pentwys overlaps with this SLA. The scheme relates to the upgrade/creation of an	<b>Major/Moderate and Significant</b>

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>access road entering the quarry at its eastern edge, which overlaps with the boundaries of the Proposed Development. The main source of landscape effects referenced in the assessment is from the intermittent movement of vehicles along the access road. ML in isolation would result in major/moderate adverse effects which are significant, whilst the non-windfarm scheme at Tir Pentwys ascribes a moderate/not significant level of effect for their scheme as a whole in isolation.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 16-20 operational and consented windfarm developments. A small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 21-25 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML.</p> <p><b>PVP 1</b> and <b>PVP 8</b> are taken from this SLA (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that few operational schemes (in green) are perceptible in combination with the site). However, one of the SLAs key characteristics is to “resist large-scale development on skylines”, and another to conserve “unspoilt’ qualities”, and there would be a notable alteration to these key characteristics due to the proximity of the SLA to the Site, resulting in a high magnitude of change.</p>	
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending</p>	<b>Major and Significant</b>

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 1</b> and <b>PVP 8 (Figure 6.35)</b> have been prepared which illustrate Scenario B. These views are the ridgelines along the edge of SLA D, so provides a 'worst-case' view from the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by immediate and neighbouring ridgelines, which would alter views from this SLA to a wind farm character.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA D would be very high, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be perceived on the boundary of the SLA and on neighbouring ridgelines, would lead to a major alteration to several of the key characteristics of the SLA, as well as altering the perceived character of the area. As proximity between the SLA and the Site occur, this effect would reduce. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario A and B.	
<b>E) St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides</b>	High	<p>Direct effects – Low            Indirect effects – High</p>	<p>Direct effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b>            Indirect effects:  <b>Major/Moderate</b>            This effect would be adverse, direct, long-term, reversible, and <b>Significant.</b></p>
		<p>SLA E St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides crosses into the west of the Site area. Key characteristics for the SLA include “panoramic views”, “attractive backdrops to settlements” and “prominent skylines”. Approximately 90% of St Illtyd Plateau and</p>	





<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>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. The skyline of the SLA would be directly affected by the Proposed Development which clearly contradicts this objective (albeit only one turbine proposed would be within the respective SLA).</p> <p>The direct magnitude of change to SLA E is considered Low.                      The indirect magnitude of change to SLA E is considered High.</p>	

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
	<b>Cumulative Effects: St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML when assessed in isolation, roughly 90% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 90% of the SLA. The non-windfarm scheme at Tir Pentwys also overlaps with this SLA. ML in isolation would result in major/moderate adverse effects which are significant, whilst Tir Pentwys ascribes a negligible adverse not significant level of effect for their scheme in isolation.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 16-20 operational and consented developments.</p> <p>No PVP was taken from this SLA. <b>PVP 1</b> and <b>11</b> are the closest representations of the SLA. <b>PVP 1</b> was taken to the east of the area, and <b>PVP 11</b> to the west of the area (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b>). A few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site from SLA E, and would at most result in a slight alteration to the landscape. However, one of the SLAs key characteristics is to conserve “<i>unspoilt’ qualities</i>” and “<i>prominent skylines</i>”. There would be a notable alteration to these key characteristics due to the proximity of the SLA to the Site, resulting in a magnitude of change of high.</p>	<b>Major/Moderate and Significant</b>

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 90% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes, plus those in scoping and in planning, from 90% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 26-30 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>The nearest cumulative wireframes that represent the SLA, are found at <b>PVP 1</b> and <b>11 (Figure 6.35)</b>, and have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by immediate and neighbouring ridgelines, which would alter views from this SLA to a wind farm character. However, due to the topography dropping down to the west within the SLA, the majority of the SLA would not experience this character change.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA E would be very high, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be perceived on the boundary of the SLA and on neighbouring ridgelines, would lead to a major alteration to several of the key characteristics of the SLA, as well as altering the perceived character of the area. As proximity between the SLA and Site occur, this effect would reduce, especially due to the topography changes that occur within the SLA. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	<p><b>Major and Significant</b></p>



<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario A and B.	
<b>F) Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		SLA F Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn is located c.2km north-west of the Site, which includes a reservoir and is described as “ <i>Strong rural character</i> ” comprising “ <i>Small fields with stone walls in poor condition and scattered farmhouses</i> ” with a “ <i>Hidden, ‘tucked away’ quality</i> ”. Approximately 25% of this SLA extends into the ZTV of the Proposed Development and would not affect its identified special qualities.  The magnitude of change to SLA F is considered Low.	

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
	<b>Cumulative Effects: Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 25% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 25% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with no other operational and consented developments. A very small proportion right on the western boundary of the SLA would theoretically have up to 1-5 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML. This is limited to the most elevated area in the SLA.</p> <p>There are no PVPs taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. Very few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site, and the key characteristics of the SLA would not be greatly altered or impacted, resulting in a magnitude of change of low.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant



<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 25% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes, plus those in scoping and in planning, from 25% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 1-5 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B.</p> <p>There are no cumulative wireframes taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would slightly alter the perceived spread of wind farm areas across distant ridgelines, but it would be barely discernible.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA F would be low, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be barely perceived on a distant ridge, would lead to a minor alteration at most to enclosed views. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a slight alteration to the baseline of SLA F.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.	
<b>G) Trefi and Garnlydan Surrounds</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low-Very Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>SLA G Trefi and Garnlydan Surrounds is located c.12.5km north-west of the Site, at its nearest point. The Proposed Development is likely to be visible from c.45% of the SLA and visual influences are typically focused on views over adjacent built form and valleys.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to SLA G is considered Low-Very Low.</p>	
<b>Cumulative Effects: Trefi and Garnlydan Surrounds</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 45% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 45% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 11-15 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 21-25 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML.</p> <p><b>PVP 27</b> and <b>PVP 28</b> are taken from outside of this SLA, <b>PVP 27</b> just to the north of the area, and <b>PVP 28</b> to the west (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b>). Operational schemes would be barely perceptible in combination with the Site from SLA G, and would at most result in a slight alteration to the landscape, leading to the magnitude of change being considered Low.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 45% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes, plus those in scoping and in planning, from 45% of the SLA.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant

<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>The nearest cumulative wireframes that represent the SLA are found at <b>PVP 27</b> and <b>28 (Figure 6.35)</b>, and have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would slightly alter the perceived spread of wind farm areas across long distant ridgelines, but it would be barely discernible.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA G would be low, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be barely perceived on a long distant ridge, would lead to a minor alteration at most to an otherwise open, panoramic view. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a slight alteration to the baseline of SLA G.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.	
<b>H) Cefn Manmoel</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		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,	



<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>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.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to SLA H is considered Low.</p>	
<b>Cumulative Effects: Cefn Manmoel</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 1-5 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 21-25 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML but this is limited to the two most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p>There are no PVPs taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. Very few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site, and the key characteristics of the SLA would not be greatly altered or impacted, resulting in a magnitude of change of low.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes, plus those in scoping and in planning, from 50% of the SLA.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant



<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC SLAs</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 26-30 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>There are no cumulative wireframes taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would slightly alter the perceived spread of wind farm areas across distant ridgelines.</p> <p>Overall, this would result in a retained low magnitude of change to SLA H, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML which would be perceived on a distant ridge, would lead to a minor alteration to a view already altered by wind farm development within the SLA itself. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.</p>	

- 1.45 There are eight SLAs in Torfaen County Borough Council within a 15km study area as illustrated on **Figure 6.15**. The Site overlaps with one SLA: SLA H Western Uplands therefore SLA H in this area would experience direct physical and perceptual landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Development alone.
- 1.46 The Western Uplands SLA (Torfaen County Borough Council) is a host SLA. No wind turbines are proposed within the SLA itself and the physical change proposed within the SLA boundary would be limited to enhancements to enable access and facilitate the Proposed Development.
- 1.47 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 a 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.
- 1.48 The landscape effects to Torfaen County Borough Council SLAs are assessed below at **Table EDP 1.6**.

**Table EDP 1.6** Torfaen County Borough Council SLA Assessment of Effects

<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>A) Llandegfedd Reservoir</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		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.  The magnitude of change to SLA A is considered Low.	
	<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA A: Llandegfedd Reservoir</b>		
		<b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 80% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 80% of the SLA.	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant

<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 1-5 operational and consented developments. A small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 6-10 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, but this is limited to the most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p>There are no PVPs taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. Very few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site, with more of the SLA screened than is shown on the ZTV due to intervening vegetation. The key characteristics of the SLA would not be greatly altered or impacted, resulting in a magnitude of change of Low.</p>	
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 80% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 80% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 6-10 wind farms in Scenario B at most from the summits. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>There are no cumulative wireframes taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>



<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>of ML to the potential scenario would slightly alter the perceived spread of wind farm areas across distant ridgelines, but the Site would be barely discernible due to the intervening vegetation and distance.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA A would continue to be low, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be barely perceived on a distant ridgeline, would lead to a minor alteration at most to key characteristics. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a slight alteration to the baseline of SLA A.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.	
<b>B) South Eastern Lowlands</b>	High	<p>Direct effects – N/A  Indirect effects – Low</p>	<p>Direct effects: N/A  Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b>  This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>
		<p>Located c.7.5km south-east of the Site at its closest point and described as an “<i>extensive area of open, rolling lowland agricultural landscape which abuts the eastern edge of Cwmbran area and Ponthir in the south.</i>” Key qualities include “<i>a quiet, secluded area to the east of Cwmbran with scattered settlements pattern</i>” and in terms of visual character, it identifies that “<i>part of the SLA has a strong visual unity eastwards into Monmouthshire</i>” (away from the direction of the Site).</p> <p>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</p>	

<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		from the Proposed Development on the SLA would not exceed a Low magnitude of change.	
<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA B South Eastern Lowlands</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 1-5 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion in the most northern section of the SLA would theoretically have up to 6-10 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML. This is limited to the most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p>There are no PVPs taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. Very few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site, with more of the SLA screened than is shown on the ZTV due to intervening valley features. The key characteristics of the SLA would not be greatly altered or impacted, resulting in a magnitude of change of Low.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 50% of the SLA.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant

<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 6-10 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>There are no cumulative wireframes taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would slightly alter the perceived spread of wind farm areas across distant ridgelines, but the Site would be barely discernible due to the intervening valley features and distance.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA B would continue to be low, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be barely perceived on a distant ridgeline, would lead to a minor alteration at most to key characteristics. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a slight alteration to the baseline of SLA B.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.	
<b>D) South West Uplands</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		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	



<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><i>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.”</i> Important geological features and historic landscapes are noted but with respect to visual and sensory aspects no views or vistas are identified.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The indirect magnitude of change to SLA D is considered to be Low.</p>	
<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA D South West Uplands</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 20% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 20% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 21-25 operational and consented developments.</p> <p><b>PVP 21</b> is taken from this SLA (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that a few operational schemes (in green) are perceptible in combination with the Site). This would at most result in a minor alteration to the landscape by bringing forward wind farm</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant

Torfaen CBC SLAs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p>characteristics to neighbouring as well as distant ridgelines. This PVP does not represent views from the closest point of the SLA to the Site, but it is located on one of the SLA's summits and provides a good representation of views. The magnitude of change is considered Low.</p>	
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 20% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 20% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 21 (Figure 6.35)</b>, have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. This view is not from the closest point to ML from SLA D, but on further assessment it is clear that the large scheme proposed within and adjacent to the SLA itself would be perceived from the summit, and in this scenario would result in a change in the landscape character to a 'wind farm landscape', with turbines perceived on ridgelines which would be spaced out along the horizon. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by neighbouring ridgelines.</p>	<p><b>Moderate and Significant</b></p>



<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		Overall, this would result in a medium magnitude of change to SLA D, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML which would be perceived on a neighbouring ridgeline would lead to a partial alteration of the landscape that is already altered by the wind farm development within and adjacent to the SLA itself (e.g., closer to the viewer). There would be significant cumulative effects in Scenario B regardless of the addition of ML. The remaining 80% of the SLA would not be impacted by the Site. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario B.	
<b>E) Blaenavon Heritage Landscape</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		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.  The indirect magnitude of change to SLA E is considered Low.	



Torfaen CBC SLAs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
	<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA E Blaenavon Heritage Landscape</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 10% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 10% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 11-15 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 21-25 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML. This is limited to the most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p><b>PVP 15</b> is taken from this SLA (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that very few operational schemes (in green) are perceptible in combination with the Site). This would at most result in a slight alteration to the landscape by bringing forward wind farm characteristics to nearby as well as distant ridgelines. This PVP does not represent views from the highest point of the SLA to the Site, but it is located on one of the SLA's summits and provides a good representation of views. The magnitude of change is considered Low.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and                      Not Significant</p>

<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 10% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 10% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 15 (Figure 6.35)</b>, have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by neighbouring and distant ridgelines, which would alter views south to that of a wind farm character within open, panoramic views. The additional of ML would not tip the balance with respect to cumulative landscape effects, however, as a windfarm landscape would be formed largely by Mynydd Maen seen in combination with Abertillery and Trecelyn.</p> <p>Overall, this would result in a medium magnitude of change to SLA E, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML which would be perceived on a neighbouring ridgeline would lead to a partial alteration of the landscape that would be noticeable but not fundamental. The remaining 90% of the SLA would not be impacted by the Site. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	<p><b>Moderate and Significant</b></p>



<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario B.	
<b>F) Eastern Uplands</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Medium	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and <b>Significant</b> .
		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 separates 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.  The magnitude of change to SLA F is considered Medium.	



Torfaen CBC SLAs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
	<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA F Eastern Uplands</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 95% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 95% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 1-5 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 6-10 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML. This is limited to the most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p><b>PVP 18</b> is taken from this SLA (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that no operational schemes (in green) are perceptible in combination with the Site). This PVP does not represent views from the highest point of the SLA to the Site, but it provides a good representation of views. Therefore, the magnitude of change will remain the same as the initial assessment for the SLA, which is considered Medium.</p>	<p><b>Moderate and Significant</b></p>



Torfaen CBC SLAs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 95% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 95% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 11-15 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 18 (Figure 6.35)</b>, have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by neighbouring ridgelines and create a continuous view of wind farms along the ridgeline, with ML being at the forefront.</p> <p>Overall, this would result in a high magnitude of change to SLA F, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML which would be perceived on a neighbouring ridgeline would lead to a noticeable alteration of the landscape, which would impact some of the SLA's key characteristics. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	<p><b>Major/Moderate and Significant</b></p>
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario A and B.</p>	



<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>G) Afon Lwyd Valley</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		The SLA 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 visual and sensory aspect area (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.  The magnitude of change to SLA G is considered Low.	
	<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA G Afon Lwyd Valley</b>		
		<b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 60% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 60% of the SLA. However, it should be noted that as discussed above, the majority of this area is defined by woodland.  <b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with no other operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 6-10 operational and	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant

<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>consented developments visible in combination with ML in the most south-eastern corner of the SLA.</p> <p>No PVPs are located within the SLA, but several are located nearby and provide the best representation of the SLA for what is available. <b>PVP 9</b> is located just to the west of the SLA, <b>PVP 12</b> just to the south, <b>PVP 16</b> just to the east, and <b>PVP 18</b> on the border to the north (<b>PVP 12, 16</b> and <b>18</b> are located on higher ground outside of the SLA). Cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that there are potentially no operational schemes (in green) perceptible in combination with the Site. Therefore, the magnitude of change will remain the same as the initial assessment for the SLA, which is considered Low.</p>	
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 60% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 60% of the SLA. However, it should be noted that as discussed above, the majority of this area is defined by woodland.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 6-10 wind farms at most from the high points in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>The nearest cumulative wireframes that represent the SLA, are found at <b>PVP 9, 12, 16</b> and <b>18 (Figure 6.35)</b>, and have been prepared to illustrate</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and                      Not Significant</p>



<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>Scenario B (<b>PVP 12, 16 and 18</b> are located on higher ground outside of the SLA). In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by neighbouring ridgelines and create a continuous view of wind farms along the ridgeline, which would alter views of the skyline to the west to that of a wind farm character. However, dense woodland within the SLA would screen the majority of the views that would be possible from the SLA.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA G would continue to be low, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML on a neighbouring ridgeline would be barely perceived in a dense woodland setting within the SLA. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a minor alteration to the baseline and key characteristics of SLA G.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.	
<b>H) Western Uplands</b>	High	Direct effects – Low Indirect effects – High	Direct effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> Indirect effects: <b>Major/Moderate</b> This effect would be adverse, indirect, long-term, reversible, and <b>Significant</b> .
		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	

<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>important views, however, and its fundamental nature as a vast open upland landscape would remain.</p> <p>The direct magnitude of change to SLA H is considered Low.                      The indirect magnitude of change to SLA H is considered High.</p>	
<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA H Western Uplands</b>			
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 65% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 65% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 1-5 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 21-25 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, but this is limited to the two most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p><b>PVP 3</b> is taken from the southern boundary of the SLA, which is located adjacent to ML. <b>PVP 8</b> is located adjacent to the SLA and looks across the area (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b>). A few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site from SLA H and would at most result in a slight alteration to the landscape. However, one of the SLAs key characteristics is to conserve a “<i>vast, open character</i>” and a “<i>strong sense of place</i>”. There would be a notable alteration to these key characteristics due to the proximity of the SLA to the Site, resulting in a magnitude of change high.</p>	<p><b>Major/Moderate and Significant</b></p>

Torfaen CBC SLAs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 65% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 65% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 1-5 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>The nearest cumulative wireframes that represent the SLA, are found at <b>PVP 3</b> and <b>8 (Figure 6.35)</b>, and have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by immediate and neighbouring ridgelines, which would alter views from this SLA to a wind farm character. However, due to the undulating topography within the SLA, parts of the SLA would not experience this character change.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA H would be very high, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be perceived on the boundary of the SLA and on neighbouring ridgelines, would lead to a major alteration to several of the key characteristics of the SLA, as well as altering the perceived character of the area. As proximity between the SLA and Site occur, this effect would reduce, especially due to the topography changes</p>	<p><b>Major and Significant</b></p>



<b>Torfaen CBC SLAs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		that occur within the SLA. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario A and B.	

- 1.49 There are 6 SLAs and 4 VILLs in Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) within a 15km study area as illustrated on **Figure 6.15**.
- 1.50 The landscape effects to CCBC SLA and VILLs are assessed below at **Table EDP 1.7**.

**Table EDP 1.7** Caerphilly County Borough Council SLA and VILLs Assessment of Effects

<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>A) Mynyddislwyn</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Very Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Minor</b> This effect would be neutral, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		SLA A is 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.  The magnitude of change to SLA A is considered Low.	
	<b>Cumulative Effects: SLA A: Mynyddislwyn</b>		
		<b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 50% of the SLA.	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant



<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 16-20 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 26-29 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, but this is limited to the most elevated area in the SLA.</p> <p>No PVP was taken from this SLA. <b>PVP 24</b> is the closest representation of the SLA. <b>PVP 24</b> was taken to the south of the area (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b>). A few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site from SLA A and would at most result in a slight alteration to the landscape within a well treed, agricultural landscape. The magnitude of change is considered Low.</p>	
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 50% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 50% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 36-37 wind farms in Scenario B at most, from the summits. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>The nearest cumulative wireframe that represents the SLA is found at <b>PVP 24 (Figure 6.35)</b>, and has been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the</p>	<p><b>Moderate and Significant</b></p>

<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>perceived spread of wind farm areas by distant ridgelines, which would alter long-distance views north to that of a wind farm character, within a well-treed landscape.</p> <p>Overall, this would result in a medium magnitude of change to SLA A, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML which would be perceived on a distant ridgeline would lead to a perceived alteration of the landscape within a treed character. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario B.	
<b>B) North Caerphilly</b>	High	<p>Direct effects – N/A</p> <p>Indirect effects – Very Low</p>	<p>Direct effects: N/A</p> <p>Indirect effects: <b>Minor</b></p> <p>This effect would be neutral, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>
		<p>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.</p> <p>The magnitude of change to SLA B is considered Very Low.</p>	

Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
	<b>Cumulative Effects: North Caerphilly</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML when assessed in isolation, roughly 10% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 10% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 16-20 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 21-25 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, but this is limited to the most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p><b>PVP 24</b> is taken from this SLA (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b> which shows that few operational schemes (in green) are perceptible in combination with the Site). Potential views of the Site alongside any operational schemes would be from the SLA boundaries and be partially screened and softened by the existing vegetation and would be seen within the context of a landscape already altered by wind farm development and urban influences. The magnitude of change is assessed as Very Low.</p>	<b>Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 10% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 10% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant

<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p>31-35 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>Cumulative wireframes for <b>PVP 24 (Figure 6.35)</b> have been prepared which illustrate Scenario B. This view is from a summit in SLA B, so provides a 'worst-case' view from the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by distant ridgelines, which would alter long-distance views north to that of a wind farm character from the northern boundary of the SLA.</p> <p>Overall, this would result in a low magnitude of change to SLA B, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML which would be perceived on a distant ridgeline behind vegetation would lead to a perceived alteration of the landscape that has already been altered by wind farm development and urban influences. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario B.</p>	



<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLS:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>D) Upper Rhymney Valley</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Negligible	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Negligible</b> This effect would be neutral, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		SLA D is located c.12.5km north-west of the Site and roughly 5% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. The indirect magnitude of change to SLA D is considered Imperceptible with only a nominal extent of the SLA within the 15km study area ZTV of the Proposed Development.	
	<b>Cumulative Effects: Upper Rhymney Valley</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 5% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 5% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 6-10 operational and consented developments.</p> <p>There are no PVPs taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. Very few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site, with existing features screening long-distant views of the Site. The key characteristics of the SLA would not be altered or impacted, resulting in a magnitude of change of Imperceptible.</p>	<b>Negligible</b> and Not Significant
	<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 5% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 5% of the SLA.</p>	<b>Negligible</b> and Not Significant	

Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 21-25 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 11-15 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>There are no cumulative wireframes taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would not alter the views or character of the SLA, as the Site would continue to be indiscernible from SLA D.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA D would continue to be Imperceptible, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML would not be perceived by SLA D. It is considered that this would not have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA.</p>	
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and Not Significant for Scenario A and B.</p>	
<b>E) Gelligaer</b>	High	<p>Direct effects – N/A                      Indirect effects – Low</p>	<p>Direct effects: N/A                      Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b>                      This effect would be neutral, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.</p>
		<p>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</p>	



<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLS:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<p><i>tempered by urban presence to south of area. Dramatic views all around...".</i></p> <p>Of relevance to this assessment it notes <i>"The eastern flank of the SLA is typified by more rolling landscape pattern interspersed with woodland blocks, spinneys and hedgerows"</i> and <i>"Wind noise is a dominant factor, which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness."</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The indirect magnitude of change to SLA E is considered Low.</p>	

<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
	<b>Cumulative Effects: Gelligaer</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 60% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 60% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 11-15 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 16-20 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, but this is limited to the most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p>No PVP was taken from this SLA. <b>PVP 23</b> is the closest representation of the SLA. <b>PVP 23</b> was taken to the north of the area (cumulative wireframes for Scenario B are included at <b>Figure 6.35</b>). A few operational schemes would be perceptible in combination with the Site from SLA E and would at most result in a slight alteration to a landscape already altered by small wind farm development, which would be barely discernible, resulting in a magnitude of change of Low.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>



Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 60% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 60% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 21-25 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>The nearest cumulative wireframes that represent the SLA are found at <b>PVP 23 (Figure 6.35)</b>, and have been prepared to illustrate Scenario B. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas by distant ridgelines, which would alter long-distance views east to that of a wind farm character.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA E would be medium, as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be perceived on a distant ridgeline, would lead to a partial alteration to an otherwise open, panoramic view. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a noticeable but non-fundamental alteration to the baseline of SLA E.</p>	<p><b>Moderate and Significant</b></p>
		<p><b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Significant</b> for Scenario B.</p>	



<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLS:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>F) Mynydd Eglwysilian</b>	High	Direct effects – N/A Indirect effects – Low	Direct effects: N/A Indirect effects: <b>Moderate/Minor</b> This effect would be neutral, indirect, long-term, reversible, and Not Significant.
		c.12km south-west of the Site at its nearest point. It notes <i>“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”</i> . 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.  The magnitude of change to SLA F is considered Low.	

<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
	<b>Cumulative Effects: Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn</b>		
		<p><b>Scenario A:</b> As with ML, when assessed in isolation, roughly 40% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario A therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes from roughly 40% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.33</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived largely in combination with 11-15 operational and consented developments. A very small proportion of the SLA would theoretically have up to 21-25 operational and consented developments visible in combination with ML, but this is limited to the most elevated areas in the SLA.</p> <p>There are no PVPs taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. A few operational schemes, including those within the SLA, would be perceptible in combination with the Site. The Site may result in a slight alteration to a landscape influenced by small wind farm developments and pylons but would be seen as a small distant part of wider panoramic views. The magnitude of change is considered Low.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>



Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:			
SLA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect and Significance
		<p><b>Scenario B:</b> As above, around 40% of the SLA overlaps with the ZTV. In Scenario B therefore, potential cumulative effects with the addition of ML would also only be theoretically perceived in combination with operational and consented schemes plus those in scoping and in planning from 40% of the SLA.</p> <p><b>Figure 6.34</b> illustrates that for the part of the SLA that overlaps with the cumulative ZTV, ML would theoretically be perceived in combination with 31-35 wind farms at most from the summits in Scenario B. This number reduces with the descending contours, and at best the proposal would be theoretically perceived in combination with 6-10 schemes where Scenario B is considered.</p> <p>There are no cumulative wireframes taken from the SLA or in proximity that would provide a best representation of the SLA. On further assessment, it is clear that the large scheme proposed within the SLA itself would be perceived from the summit and in this scenario would result in a change in the landscape character to a 'wind farm landscape', with turbines perceived on ridgelines which would be spaced out along the horizon. In Scenario B, the addition of ML to the potential scenario would slightly increase the perceived spread of wind farm areas on distant ridgelines.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change to SLA F would remain low as the indirect effect of the addition of ML, which would be barely perceived on a distant ridgeline, would result in a minor alteration to a view which is already altered by wind farm development within the SLA itself. It is considered that this would have an indirect landscape effect on the concerning SLA, and would result in a slight alteration to the baseline of SLA F.</p>	<p><b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant</p>



<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, cumulative adverse and <b>Not Significant</b> for Scenario A and B.	
<b>VILL A) Manmoel</b>	High	<p>Manmoel is 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.”</p> <p>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 VILL’s 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, the magnitude of change would be medium.</p>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, neutral and Not Significant.	



<b>Caerphilly CBC SLA and VILLs:</b>			
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Level of Effect and Significance</b>
<b>VILL B) Abercarn</b>	High	Abercarn VILL is located c.1km to the south of the Site. 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 VILL's 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 Ordnance Survey 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. Overall, the magnitude of change would be medium.	<b>Moderate /Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, adverse and Not Significant.	
<b>VILL D) Northern Rhymney Valley</b>	High	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 would form a small part of much wider panoramic views where turbines and pylons are appreciable features of upland areas. Overall, the magnitude of change would be medium at most.	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
		<b>Type of Effect:</b> Long term (reversible), indirect, neutral and Not Significant.	



## Summary

- 1.51 In summary, this Appendix provides a detailed assessment of the predicted worst case landscape effects on landscapes designated at national and local level. The BBNP, Wye Valley NL, BILWHS, as well as SLAs and VILLs, within the defined and agreed study area parameters have been investigated and appraised. **Table 6.21** of **Chapter 6** provides a summary of effects on the local landscape designations discussed herein.
- 1.52 Landscape effects reported are at operation, which is considered worst case. Effects at construction have been considered at a high level for each special quality, LCA, LMZ, SLA and VILL assessed herein. Due to the nature of the proposals, the blade sweep of up to seven turbines operating in combination for up to 30 years would result in far greater impact than temporary crane movement or ground works required at construction. Therefore, no effects predicted at construction would be worse than those reported at operation, and generally effects at construction would result in a reduced level of effect due to the duration of the activities and the reduced extent of visibility at ground level from parts of the study area assessed. Some ground level construction works would be visible, and high-level work (such as use of cranes) in sweeping views. This would, however, be limited to daytime activities and would only be perceived from areas within the ZTV over a period of around 22 months.