

## **Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm**

### **Appendix 6I: Photoviewpoint Schedule of Effects**

#### **edp6367\_r030f\_FINAL DRAFT**

- 1.1 This appendix sets out the predicted visual effects of the Proposed Development from a series of photoviewpoint (PVP) locations within the 26km study area. The visual assessment has been conducted in accordance with the methodology included at **Appendix 6A** of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.2 The PVPs represent a series of receptor groups within the blade tip ZTV that have potential to experience change as a result of the Proposed Development. The PVP selection was informed by desktop research as well as consultation with statutory consultees. The representative set assessed herein has been chosen to represent a range of receptor groups, and the PVP locations aim to represent various distances from all points of the compass.
- 1.3 This appendix should be read in conjunction with the following which are included at **Appendix 6B** of the Environmental Statement:
- **Figure 6.7** ZTV to blade tip (26km study area);
  - **Figure 6.8** ZTV to hub height (26km study area);
  - **Figure 6.11** LVIA Photoviewpoint Locations;
  - **Figure 6.12** LVIA Photoviewpoints;
  - **Figure 6.32** CLVIA Windfarms;
  - **Figure 6.33** Cumulative ZTV - Scenario A – The Proposed Development with Operational and Consented Schemes;
  - **Figure 6.34** Cumulative ZTV – Scenario B - The Proposed Development with Operational and Consented Schemes + Schemes in Planning and in Scoping; and
  - **Figure 6.35** Cumulative Wireframes.
- 1.4 Wireframes have been prepared for all PVPs to act as a visual aid. Photomontages have been prepared for Mynydd Llanhilleth only for some PVPs close to the Site, and from those within the BBNP and Wye Valley National Landscape. **Figure 6.11** illustrates which PVPs include photomontages. Recreational users of the Bannau Brycheiniog/Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) and the Wye Valley National Landscape are represented as views from rights of way and areas of open access land, settlements, country parks and roads.



- 1.5 A Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) has been prepared as part of the LVIA set out in **Chapter 6** and the methodology employed contained at **Appendix 6A**. The purpose of the CLVIA is to assess whether significant effects are likely to arise when Mynydd Llanhilleth is likely to be seen in combination with other wind farm developments.
- 1.6 A study area of 27km has been considered and the wind farm developments for consideration within the CLVIA are shown on **Figure 6.32**. These wind farms are listed in **Table 6.7** of the Environmental Statement together with their status, distance from the Proposed Development - Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML), the number of turbines and the heights to blade tip.
- 1.7 Best practice guidance suggests limiting the number of viewpoints carried forward to the cumulative assessment to aid decision making. Therefore, the cumulative visual assessment provided herein focuses on LVIA Photoviewpoints where Not Significant effects are reported where the Proposed Development alone has been assessed. For CLVIA, the approach taken is based on the assumption that, in general, significant cumulative impacts are likely to also be concluded where significant effects have already been found when the Proposed Development was assessed in isolation.
- 1.8 Cumulative wireframes have been prepared as a visual aid for all photoviewpoints (**Figure 6.35**) and the cumulative visual effects are described and assessed for 11 Photoviewpoints. Two cumulative scenarios have been considered for each; these are:
- **Scenario A** – The Proposed Development in addition to Operational and Consented Schemes; and
  - **Scenario B** - The Proposed Development in addition to Operational and Consented plus Schemes in Planning and in Scoping.
- 1.9 The nature of the effects reported for Scenario A is considered more probable or certain, whereas Scenario B is uncertain and highly variable.
- 1.10 The figures have colour coded the wind farm developments, and they are grouped by status: The Proposed Development (ML) is showing in blue; operational and consented schemes are coloured green and light green respectively; schemes in planning are coloured orange; and those in scoping are coloured pink.
- 1.11 **Table EDP 1.1** below provides a summary of the visual effects and then PVPs 1-30 are described in detail in the tables that follow.

## Photoviewpoint Summary of Effects

**Table EDP 1.1** PVP summary of effects.

PVP	PVP Name	PVP Assessment of Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) Proposed Development Only				Cumulative Assessment	
		Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance	Scenario A ML + Operational and Consented	Scenario B Scenario A + Wind farms in Planning and in Scoping.
<b>Within 0-5km:</b>							
<b>PVP1</b>	ML Common, taken from within the site looking north-east to south-east	High	Very High	<b>Major</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP2</b>	Tipentwys Cut taken from within the site looking north	Low	High	<b>Moderate/Minor</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP3</b>	Public footpath looking south-west towards the site	High	Very High	<b>Major</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP4</b>	Public footpath at Llanerch Memorial looking south-west to north-west towards the site	High	Very High	<b>Major</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP5</b>	Blaen-y-cwm Road looking north towards the site	Medium	High	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP6</b>	Public Footpath in Pantygasseg to the east of Mountain View looking north-west towards the site	High	Very High	<b>Major</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP7</b>	Car park at Big Arch, Abersychan	Medium	Low	<b>Minor</b>	Not Significant	No Change	<b>Minor</b> Not Significant
<b>PVP8</b>	Public footpath to the east of Abertillery looking south towards the site	High	Very high	<b>Major</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A

PVP	PVP Name	PVP Assessment of Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) Proposed Development Only				Cumulative Assessment	
		Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance	Scenario A ML + Operational and Consented	Scenario B Scenario A + Wind farms in Planning and in Scoping.
<b>PVP9</b>	B4246 (Church Road) junction with Heol Waun, Talywain looking south-west towards the site	Medium	Medium	<b>Moderate/Minor</b>	Not Significant	No change	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>
<b>PVP10</b>	Public footpath to the west of Six Bells looking south-east towards the site	High	High	<b>Major/Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP11</b>	Llanerch Lane in Pen-tywn on the edge of settlement looking north-east towards the site	Medium	High	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP12</b>	Torfaen Trail and Woodside Road in Trevethin looking west towards the site	High	High	<b>Major/Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP13</b>	Pen-y-Fan Country Park, Oakdale looking east towards the site	High	Imperceptible	<b>Negligible</b>	Not Significant	Negligible	Negligible
<b>PVP14</b>	Melvin Place / Llewelyn Avenue junction in Croespenmaen looking north-east towards the site	Low	High	<b>Moderate/Minor</b>	Not Significant	No Change	No Change
<b>PVP15</b>	Coety Mountain summit (Mynydd Farteg Fawr) looking south towards the site	High	Very High	<b>Major</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP16</b>	Lasgarn Lane, south-eastern tail of BBNP looking south-west towards the site	High	High	<b>Major/Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A

PVP	PVP Name	PVP Assessment of Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) Proposed Development Only				Cumulative Assessment	
		Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance	Scenario A ML + Operational and Consented	Scenario B Scenario A + Wind farms in Planning and in Scoping.
<b>Within 5-10km:</b>							
<b>PVP17</b>	View from Sunnyview, Argoed looking north-east towards the site	Low	Very Low	<b>Minor/ Negligible</b>	Not Significant	No Change	No Change
<b>PVP18</b>	Blaenavon World Heritage Site looking south-west towards the site	High	High	<b>Major/ Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP19</b>	Rocking Point, scenic viewpoint looking south-east towards the site	High	Low	<b>Moderate/ Minor</b>	Not Significant	<b>Moderate/ Minor</b> and Not Significant.	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>PVP20</b>	Cinnabar Drive, Springfield, Pontllanfraith looking north-east towards the site	Low	Medium	<b>Minor</b>	Not Significant	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>PVP21</b>	Twmbarlwn summit looking north towards the site	High	Medium	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP22</b>	The Bloreng Summit (BBNP) looking south-west towards the site	Very High	High	<b>Major</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Within 10-15km:</b>							
<b>PVP23</b>	Cefn y Brithdir near New Tredegar looking east-south-east towards the site	High	Medium	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP24</b>	Rhymney Valley Ridge Walk west of Risca looking north-east towards the site	High	Very Low	<b>Minor</b>	Not Significant	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>PVP25</b>	Mynydd Llangatwg trig point (BBNP) looking south-east towards the site	Very High	Very Low	<b>Moderate/ Minor</b>	Not Significant	Negligible	Negligible

PVP	PVP Name	PVP Assessment of Mynydd Llanhilleth (ML) Proposed Development Only				Cumulative Assessment	
		Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance	Scenario A ML + Operational and Consented	Scenario B Scenario A + Wind farms in Planning and in Scoping.
<b>Within 15-26km:</b>							
<b>PVP26</b>	Sugar Loaf trig point (BBNP) looking south-west towards the site	Very High	Low	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP27</b>	Mynydd Llangynidr (BBNP) looking south-east towards the site	Very High	Low	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP28</b>	Cefn yr Ystrad summit, (BBNP) looking south-east towards the site	Very High	Low	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Significant</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>PVP29</b>	Wye Valley National Landscape, minor road north of Llanishen, looking west towards the site	High	Very Low	<b>Minor</b>	Not Significant	No Change	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>
<b>PVP30</b>	Craig y Fan Ddu (BBNP) taken from Beacon Way looking south-east towards the site	Very High	Very low	<b>Moderate/Minor</b>	Not Significant	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>



## Photoviewpoint Description of Effects

**Table EDP 1.2: PVP 1** Mynydd Llanhilleth Common, taken from within the Site looking north-east to south-east.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 1</b> is located within the Site boundary. It is an open and elevated view with the site's central plateau seen in the foreground. The surrounding valleys and ridgelines are layered in the middle to background to form the backdrop of the view. Beyond the site, settled valley bottoms are perceptible as is Mynydd Llwyd, a highpoint in the landscape which is to the right of the frame in the background of the view. The foreground and middle ground of the view includes a rural road and informal carparking area, both of which are within the Site boundary. Despite the presence of human influences in the foreground and beyond the extents of the Site, there are relatively few detractors seen from this perspective. 360degree views of the surrounding Site context are available from this location.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 1</b> is c.0.2km from the nearest turbine (T3). The full breadth of the Proposed Development would be seen from this location including infrastructure elements. Proposed turbines and ancillary would be visible in a direct and open view and at close range, while others would be visible in oblique views (turning head to the left and right from this location). The field of view affected by the Proposed Development would be c.139 degrees.  The Proposed Development would result in a substantial change to the baseline view by creating a prominent defining focus which would be seen at close range. The turbines proposed would increase the vertical scale of the view greatly by introducing the tall structures and, due the proximity, the scale of the nearest turbine (T3) seen in the wireframe extends beyond the field of view captured by the 50mm lens used in accordance with best practice. The full extent of the proposed turbines would be visible if the receptor was to tilt their head upwards. The blade sweep would also be a new dominant feature experienced at very close range.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major and Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	The ground works and machinery movement would be clearly visible from this location. The temporary compound would also be visible in an oblique view, to the left of the frame.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.3: PVP 2** Tipentwys Cut taken from within the Site looking north.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 2</b> is an enclosed view located within Tipentwys Cut. The PVP location is within a dip and a managed conifer plantation. A rough access track / informal bike track is visible in the foreground and there is some evidence of felling to the left. This view is taken from private land at the request of the LPA and public access is not formally recognised. Since the site photography was taken, there has been more tree felling in the foreground therefore the view is not fully representative of the current baseline. The enclosed space makes the area more susceptible to wind farm development, however, the view available from <b>PVP 2</b> is clearly of lesser value than similar views from receptors that are more accessible. The sensitivity is low and for the purposes of the assessment, it is assumed that all trees seen in the view have been felled.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 2</b> is c.0.68km from the nearest turbine (T2). The upper parts including the hubs and blades of T3 and T4 would be visible at close range on the horizon in the foreground of the view. Landform would screen the rest of the Proposed Development from this perspective. The extent of visibility is represented by <b>Wireframe 2</b> . The Proposed Development would form a new and recognisable man-made element within the view which would be seen at close range.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Low
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Only machinery movement (cranes) would be partially visible from this location.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.4: PVP 3** Public footpath looking south-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 3</b> is an open view from a public footpath close on site. The undulating countryside includes a wooded valley in the foreground and exposed heathland in the middle ground, and this ridgeline in the middle ground is the central plateau on-site. Hills in the far distance are seen in the background of the view and there are very few obvious man-made features apart from a farm in the middle ground, together with pylons and a mast seen on the skyline.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 3</b> is c.0.52km from the nearest turbine (T1). The location of the PVP and PRoW from which it is taken from follows the alignment of the proposed grid connection. The majority of the Proposed Development would be visible at close range from this location. The closest turbines would be visible in a direct view from the right of way. Their locations within the view would be broadly consistent with the topography of the landscape and from this perspective the full extent of the turbines would be seen. The Proposed Development would result in a substantial change to the baseline, a new defining focus would be added to the landscape. The substation and most likely a fenced compound would also be visible at T1 and T2 respectively.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>





<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Ground level works and machinery movement (including cranes) would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.5: PVP 4** Public footpath at Llanerch Memorial looking south-west to north-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 4</b> is an enclosed view providing vistas along the valley and enclosure from the valley slopes. The view has a rural and tranquil sense of place within only limited human influence in the form of the bench at the view foreground and the path to the right of the view, both of which provide access to the memorial out of shot to the right of the frame. Beyond this human influence the landscape is rural with scrubby grassland and scattered trees in the foreground and along the slopes to the right of the frame and across the valley. The edge of the ridgeline in the background, which forms the edge of the site is reclaimed land which is lined with trees.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 4</b> is c.0.65km from the nearest turbine (T1). Turbines T1, T3, T4, and T6 would be visible within the view, however, T6 is limited to blade tips seen over the treeline. Proposed turbines would appear to surround the receptor, being located on both sides of the valley and the movement of the blades would draw the eye up. The turbines would form a new defining focus within the view as a result.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major and Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Some ground level works as well as machinery movement (including cranes) would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.6: PVP 5** Blaen-y-cwm Road looking north towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 5</b> is an open view Blaen-y-Cwm Road before it passes through the Site boundary. The view experienced from this country road is scenic and therefore the sensitivity of road users is considered medium. The road which is visible in the left of the frame is bordered by a stone wall and fencing on the right. To the right of the view, the land slopes down towards a dwelling in the middle ground and overhead cables crossing a field in front of the house. The pine plantation adjacent to the Site is visible on the horizon in the middle to left of the frame. More trees have been felled in the plantation since the photography was taken, therefore, the baseline view isn't wholly representative of the baseline view. Land in the middle ground, to the left and right of the plantation is within the Site.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 5</b> is c.0.94km from the nearest turbine (T7) which is seen in the right of the photomontage. The wireframe view shows that the majority of the proposal would be seen in a clear and open view from <b>PVP 5</b> . The array would be relatively evenly spread across the view and the full blade sweep as well as the majority of the towers would be visible from this perspective. The wireframe view is more representative of the extent of the view following the tree felling which has occurred since the photography was captured.  For instance, based on landform alone, the hubs and blade tips of T1 and T2 would be visible above the ridgeline in the middle distance. Further to the left of the view, T3 and T4 would be filtered by intervening vegetation along the roadside.



	The addition of turbines proposed would fundamentally alter the view. The Proposed Development would be clearly visible in a linear pattern on the crest of the ridgeline in the middle ground, and the field of view affected would be over 100 degrees. Ancillary development such as tracks would not be visible from this perspective due to landform.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Medium
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Some ground level works as well as machinery movement (including cranes) would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.7:PVP 6** Public Footpath in Pantygasseg to the east of Mountain View looking north-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 6</b> is a filtered view from a PRow in Pantygasseg. The foreground includes roadside tree planting, fencing, a signpost, telegraph poles and overhead powerlines, parking and grit boxes. In the middle ground, an undulating pasture hillside is partially framed by trees and the near edge of the Site is located at two field depths in, beyond the vegetated field boundary seen in the centre of the view. The pine plantation which has since been partially felled is partially visible on the horizon.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 6</b> is c.0.97km from the nearest turbine (T7).  The photomontage shows that T3, T4, T6, and T7 would be visible in a direct view in the centre of the frame from this right of way. T8 would be partially visible to the left of the view, and it would be filtered by vegetation. The extent to which the Proposed Development would be visible varies; the full sweep of T4, T6, and T7 would be visible, whereas the hub and of part of the blade sweep of T3 is visible and T8 is partially filtered by intervening vegetation. With the exception of T8, the turbines appear 'paired' the view and due to the perspective, the scale of T7 and T6 is more notable than those further away from the viewpoint as the photomontage illustrates.  Two turbines appear to be screened completely, however, moving blade tips may be glimpsed in reality. There are a number of manmade vertical elements captured in the foreground and the Proposed Development would add to the cluttering of the view. The addition of proposed turbines would be prominent due to the scale, proximity and pattern of the arrays proposed, the change to the view is substantial. Ancillary development such as tracks would not be visible from this perspective due to landform.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major and Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Some ground level works as well as machinery movement (including cranes) would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	



**Table EDP 1.8: PVP 7** Car park at Big Arch, Abersychan.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 7</b> is a view from Big Arch car park which is set low in the valley. A high-voltage pylon and powerlines are seen in the foreground. In the centre-ground, a track which heads away from the viewer out of the car park through a gate. Spoil heaps are visible along the hillside which are a recognisable feature of the historic industrial landscape. The Site is situated beyond the brow of the hill seen on the horizon. There is a sense of enclosure created by the surrounding hills and the Big Arch located out of frame to the left of the viewer. The sensitivity receptor is considered medium.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 7</b> is c.1.6km from the nearest turbine (T1).  The photomontage illustrates that a very small proportion of the Proposed Development would be seen from <b>PVP 7</b> . Only the blades tips of T1 and T2 would be visible above the brow of the hill, and the rest of the Proposed Development would be screened entirely by intervening topography. The blade movement would be apparent and therefore the Proposed Development would be considered to form a minor constituent of the view.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Medium
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Not anticipated. Given the amount of screening provided by intervening landform, it's unlikely that some crane movement would be visible from this location.
<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	No Change. ML would not be seen in combination any other wind farm developments in Scenario A.
<b>Scenario B</b>	ML would be seen in combination with 1 wind farm development only. Abertillery would be seen in a combined view from this location. There would be a low magnitude of change as a result.
<b>Level of Effect (B)</b>	<b>Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative adverse and Not Significant (A&B).

**Table EDP 1.9: PVP 8** Public footpath to the east of Abertillery looking south towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 8</b> is an open panoramic view from a PRoW looking across a plateau landscape with views spanning a considerable distance. The foreground landscape comprises heath and marshy grassland, and the top of a plantation is visible along the edge of the plateau to the right of the frame. Manmade features are sparse in this landscape, there are 2 existing wind turbines visible in the middle ground to the left centre of the view. Another turbine is seen above the plantation on the right and lastly, more distant turbines are perceptible on the horizon to the right, in the background of the view. Some rural roads are visible intermittently in the intervening landscape and there is a standalone mast in the middle ground as well as clusters of pylons on the skyline.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 8</b> is c.1.6km from the nearest turbine (T2).  The full array would be clearly visible in an open view and the field of view affected would be less than 45 degrees. T6 and T7 would overlap with T2.



	The scale of the Proposed Development does not seem discordant with this large-scale plateau landscape. The distribution of the turbines is broadly even, with the exception of T2, T6, and T7 which are stacked and appear cluttered. Overall, the Proposed Development would be considered to form a new defining focus in the view, which is otherwise broadly defined by horizontal landscape patterns with the odd notable manmade feature.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very high
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major and Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction &amp; Decommissioning:</b>	As well as machinery movement, some groundworks would be visible from this perspective and the temporary compound as well as road treatment works would be partially visible.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.10: PVP 9** B4246 (Church Road) junction with Heol Waun, Talywain looking south-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 9</b> is a view from the settlement of Talywain. Built form and the edge of an urban green space is visible with houses in the centre ground, and Church Road (B4246) is seen to the left of the view. Steep slopes form a ridgeline in the middle ground form a rural backdrop to the view in the middle distance. The Site is located beyond the ridgeline.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 9</b> is c.2km from the nearest turbine (T1).  The wireframe shows that the majority of the Proposed Development would be screened from this location by intervening topography and those that are partially visible (T1 and, T2) be seen on the horizon. The hubs and tips of T1 and T2 would be seen above the ridgeline. The turbines would form a new and recognisable element on the skyline. Due to the extent to which the tips and hubs would break the skyline, there would be noticeable change to the view although this visual extent is not considered over prominent in the view.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Medium
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Medium
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Given the amount of screening provided by intervening landform, only some crane movement would be visible from this location.
<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	No Change. Operational and consented developments theoretically visible in a combined view include Little Longlands Lane, Tesco Dist. Centre and Rush Wall. These developments are located near the Severn Estuary and existing built form screens views of these developments. They do not break the skyline in the wireline view.
<b>Level of Effect (A)</b>	No Change
<b>Scenario B</b>	ML would theoretically be seen in combination with 5 other wind farm developments in Scenario B. Abertillery and Mynydd Maen would be most obvious in a combined view as these developments are a similar distance to the viewer. There would be a high magnitude of change as a result.



<b>Level of Effect (B)</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative, adverse and <b>Significant (B)</b> .

**Table EDP 1.11: PVP 10** Public footpath to the west of Six Bells looking south-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 10</b> is an open elevated view from a PRoW to the west of Six Bells. Ribbon development in the valley bottom is partially screened and the rising slopes in the middle ground contain a mix of broadleaf and evergreen plantations. The ridgeline seen in the middle distance contains fields of pasture, a mast and some tree planting on the skyline. The landscape along the top of the ridge is more open to the left of the frame whereas deciduous trees lines and small stands of evergreen trees are seen atop the ridge to the right. A distant ridgeline is glimpsed to the far right of the frame. The Site is located beyond the ridgeline in the middle distance.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 10</b> is c.2.2km from the nearest turbine (T3).  The Proposed Development would be partially visible in the middle distance from <b>PVP 10</b> and the field of view affected would be 45 degrees. Seven turbines would all be seen to varying degrees whereas the remaining one turbine would be completely screened by landform. The wireframe shows that in the centre of the view, the hub of T8 would be just visible above the ridgeline. Further left, part of the tower of T4 would be visible above the ridge along with the hub and blades as would T2. Most of the tower of T3 would be visible which is the closest turbine to <b>PVP 10</b> . The most distant view of the Proposed Development would extend to the hub of T1. The turbines would appear somewhat scattered although there would be some overlap with the mast seen in the view. The Proposed Development does not read as discordant with pattern and scale of the landscape when seen from this perspective. However, the part of the Proposed Development that is visible would be clearly noticeable against the backdrop, and given the distance to the Proposed Development, the view would be fundamentally altered with the addition of the manmade and dynamic features.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major/Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	As well as machinery movement (cranes), some groundworks may be visible from this perspective.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.12: PVP 11** Llanerch Lane in Pen-tywn on the edge of settlement looking north-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 11</b> is an open view from a backroad in Pen-tywn, looking across a settled valley. There is clear human influence within the view from settlement following valley contours up valley slopes, infrastructure in the valley bottoms around Llanhilleth Station as well as powerlines seen across the view. ML is in the backdrop of the view, and the Site's near edge is situated near the crest of the hill on and just below the skyline. Part of the pine plantation removal adjacent to the Site is discernible on the skyline off centre to the right of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 11</b> is c.2.3km from the nearest turbine (T8). T8 and the associated ancillary track would be clearly seen on the hillside from <b>PVP 11</b> .



	The full array would be visible from this <b>PVP 11</b> ; 3 turbines would sit on the ridgeline (T3, T4, and T8) and 4 would be partially screened and appear lower set down behind the ridgeline (T1, T2, T6 and T7). Full blade sweeps would be visible for most, however, the pattern of the Proposed Development would be well distributed along the ridgeline from this perspective and the height of the 3 near and 4 more distant turbines are uniform in their groups. The Proposed Development would form a new and recognisable large scale element within the view, which is considered to fundamentally alter it due to the legibility of the extent of the Proposed Development from this distance and perspective.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Medium
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	As well as machinery movement (cranes), some groundworks would be visible from this perspective.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.13: PVP 12** Torfaen Trail and Woodside Road in Trevethin looking west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 12</b> is an open view the Torfaen Trail as it passes through a residential setting. In the foreground is a grassed area of public open space with occasional trees. Beyond this, staggered rows of terraces are visible stepping down the slope in the middle ground. The backdrop is rural, with ridges and valleys forming three hills that are mostly wooded with few detractors breaking the skyline. At the bottom of the slopes there are a patchwork of field parcels and settlement.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 12.</b> The full array would be visible from this location. The full sweep of the blades would be seen for most of the turbines, however, only the blade of T8 would be visible and a small part of the sweep of T2 would be screening by topography. The array would be distributed relatively evenly with no stacking. The Proposed Development would also follow the topographical character of the landscape. The presence of turbines, however, would fundamentally alter the view and would be clearly noticeable.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major/Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction &amp; Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes), and possibly some groundworks would be visible from this perspective.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	



**Table EDP 1.14: PVP 13** Pen-y-Fan Country Park, Oakdale looking east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 13</b> is an enclosed view from Pen-y-Fan country park. There is a lake towards the right of the frame and a footpath beside it. The tree line on the horizon which encloses the view, curtails views towards the Site from this perspective. The Site is located out of view in the background, beyond the tree line seen in the near distance.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 13</b> is c.3.6km form the nearest turbine (T8).  As a result of the screening effects of the tree line in the near distance, it is anticipated the Proposed Development would be screened completely, even in wintertime when trees are not in leaf as shown in the PVP.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Imperceptible</b>
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Negligible</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	There would be no magnitude of change, therefore, no effect anticipated.
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	N/A
<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	No Change. ML is imperceptible in baseline view.
<b>Scenario B</b>	No Change. ML is imperceptible in baseline view.

**Table EDP 1.15: PVP 14** Melvin Place/Llewelyn Avenue junction in Croespenmaen looking north-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 14</b> is a framed view from a roadside junction in Croespenmaen. The foreground comprises a suburban setting with dwellings and a junction. There is a lamppost in the foreground of the view which breaks the skyline. In the middle ground, a caravan park sits behind the houses that are seen head-on in the centre of the view. The framed view of the backdrop, which is in the medium distance comprises gently undulating countryside with a patchwork of land uses including woodland groups and open moorland.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 14</b> is c.4.3km form the nearest turbine (T8).  The majority of the proposed turbines (T1, T2, T3, T4, and T8) would be visible along the ridgeline, and it is possible that the blade tips of T6 and T7 would be visible above a hedgerow within residential curtilage. The turbines follow the topography of the land and they would appear to be evenly distributed in pairs. The turbines would not reach higher within the frame than the lamppost in the foreground and they are considered proportionate in the context of this landscape when seen from this perspective. The Proposed Development would form a new and recognisable element seen in a direct and framed view.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Low
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and Not Significant.
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes), and possibly some groundworks would be visible from this perspective.



<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	No Change. Operational and consented developments are filtered by built form in the foreground.
<b>Scenario B</b>	No Change. Additional developments in planning and in scoping are also filtered by built form in the foreground in all cardinal directions from this location.

**Table EDP 1.16: PVP 15** Coety Mountain summit (Mynydd Farteg Fawr) looking south towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 15</b> is an open panoramic view from open access land on Coety Mountain. The foreground is formed of open heathland plateau. This is a scenic panorama where very few manmade features are obvious in the frame. Just below the skyline on the right two existing wind turbines are visible in the middle distance. Long distanced views encompass layered hill tops which culminate in the far distance. Masts and pylons are perceptible against the skyline on the horizon. The Site is located in the centre ground, beyond the second ridgeline seen in the middle distance.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 15</b> is c.4.1km from the nearest turbine proposed (T2).  The full array would be visible from Coety Summit from this perspective. The field of view affected would be c.18 degrees of the panorama where 360 degree views are available across the valleys. Part of each turbine tower would break the skyline, with the hubs and full blade sweep for all but T8, the tips of which dip below the ridgeline in the middle ground. The pattern of the array reads as relatively balanced - proposed turbines are distributed evenly into two groups of four. Within the group to the right of the frame, the hubs of T4, T1 and T3 are located just above the horizon, with the hub of T8 below it. In this view, T8 appears lower than the others in the array, and it is stacked behind T1. The scale of the turbines appears proportionate to the large scale landscape captured in the view although the horizontal pattern of the landscape is interrupted by the verticality of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the Proposed Development would form substantial change to the baseline and a new defining focus within the view.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes), and possibly some groundworks would be visible from this perspective.
Cumulative Effects are Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.17: PVP 16** Lasgarn Lane, south-eastern tail of BBNP looking south-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 16</b> is taken from the boundary of the BBNP almost at its closest point to the nearest turbine proposed. The view encompasses an open and wide view across a settled valley seen against a large-scale landscape which is outside of the BBNP. The foreground of the view is pastoral common land grazed by ponies. The landscape sweeps down into a wide valley where woodland and settlement are visible in the middle ground of the view. Beyond this a ridgeline forms the backdrop of the view with scrubby heath and grassland on the slopes to the right of the frame and wooded slopes to the left. The legibility of settled valley and the scale of the landscape beyond reduces the receptors susceptibility to change to medium, therefore the sensitivity of the visual receptor is reduced from very high to high.
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	Unlike other parts of the BBNP, the sense of remoteness and ruggedness is not apparent in this view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<p><b>PVP 16</b> is c.4.4km from the nearest turbine proposed (T1).</p> <p>The full array would be visible on the skyline from <b>PVP 16</b>. From this perspective, the Proposed Development combined with the settled valley and mostly bare hill tops is clearly legible. The full sweep of the blades and a sizeable amount of the towers would be visible from this location, with landform only screening some of the lower parts of towers from this perspective. The turbines are mostly distributed evenly, however, one pair of turbines (T1 and T3) are partially stacked. This clutters the uniformity slightly and adds complexity to the pattern. Although the Proposed Development would be seen in the middle distance and in the context of a settled valley and the field of view affected would be less than 30 degrees. The scale of the Proposed Development may appear slightly discordant with the existing built formation from this perspective but in-keeping with the scale of the landscape overall. The Proposed Development would be clearly noticeable, and the view would be fundamentally altered as a result.</p>
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major/Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) would be clearly seen; however, groundworks would be less apparent from this perspective.
Cumulative Effects are Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.18: PVP 17** View from Sunnyview, Argoed looking north-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<p><b>PVP 17</b> is an oblique view from a residential street in Argoed. There is a short depth of field available which encompasses a view across a valley. A conifer is seen in the foreground together with houses on either side. The backdrop comprises a steep, wooded slope across a narrow valley and three existing turbines to the right of the frame are visible at close range. Powerlines and pylons are discernible in the foreground and in the background of the view. The Site is beyond the vegetated ridgeline in the background, and the sensitivity of the receptor is considered low.</p>
<b>At Operation</b>	<p><b>PVP 17</b> is c.5.7km from the nearest turbine proposed (T8).</p> <p>Due to the change in topography as well as existing intervening vegetation, the majority of the Proposed Development would be screened entirely. The blade tips of a few of the proposed turbines may be glimpsed above the tree line in a filtered view and would barely be discernible.</p>
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Low
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Minor/ Negligible</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), neutral and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be partially visible and groundworks would not.



<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	No Change. ML would result in a very low magnitude of change when assessed by itself therefore there is little possibility of Scenario A resulting in Significant cumulative effects.
<b>Scenario B</b>	No Change. ML would result in a very low magnitude of change when assessed by itself therefore there is little possibility of Scenario B resulting in Significant cumulative effects.

**Table EDP 1.19: PVP 18** Blaenavon World Heritage Site looking south-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 18</b> is a scenic view towards the Site from a PRoW and area of open access land within Blaenavon World Heritage Site. The panoramic view is like <b>PVP 16</b> , however, <b>PVP 18</b> has a more rural character, the depth of field is further reaching, and settled valleys are further removed and less obvious and less visible in the view. In the foreground is marshy grassland beyond which is a line of coniferous woodland which forms the middle ground. The background is an open undulating landscape with spoil heaps, ridges and valleys staggered in the distance. The ridges appear bare and almost void of vegetation, however, there is a mosaic of grassland, scrub, and some woodland alongside spoil heaps. Manmade features seen within the intervening landscape include roads, dwellings, and electricity poles but these are not obvious due to the vast scale captured in the view, as well as intervening vegetation. The Site is located in the background, beyond the ridgeline in the centre of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 18</b> is c.5.7km from the nearest turbine proposed (T1).  The full array would be visible from this location and the field of view affected would be c.16 degrees.  The wireframe shows the Proposed Development on the horizon in the background of the view. T3 sits behind T2, only the blade of T8 visible, and the hub, blades, and tower of the remaining turbines visible. The turbines would not be distributed evenly, and their lack of uniformity would appear cluttered from this perspective. The turbines would be at such a distance that their scale would be consistent with the topography and scale of the landscape, however, which is of a vast scale. Although distant and proportionate in scale to the landscape setting, the Proposed Development would form a new and recognisable dynamic element in an otherwise 'still' and scenic view.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major/Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be partially visible and groundworks are less likely to be seen at this distance due to the change in topography.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	



**Table EDP 1.20: PVP 19** Rocking Point, scenic viewpoint looking south-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 19</b> is view towards the Site from a scenic viewpoint situated within an area of open access land. The focus of this view is the gently undulating valley side seen in the centre ground where a conifer plantation meets smaller fields with intermittent planting. The crest of the most obvious ridges are void of structural planting and they are characteristically bare looking. Manmade features are minimal, one existing turbine to the right of the frame detracts only slightly from the sense of remoteness. Further to the right of the frame there are some longer views beyond the ridge. The Site is located off centre to the right in the background of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 19</b> is c.7.7km from the nearest turbine proposed (T3).  The majority of the array would be visible in the background of the view and the field of view affected would be c.15 degrees at most. Parts of the Proposed Development would be seen above the treeline along the ridge and parts (particularly the turbines furthest right), are likely to be mostly screened. Those seen furthest left in the wireframe are likely to be most visible in the proposed view. Some hubs and blades may be perceived in the centre or to the right of the array, whereas full blade sweeps are anticipated turbines located furthest left only. Lower parts of the towers for the rest of the scheme would be screened by intervening vegetation in the middle ground. The pattern of the Proposed Development appears well distributed, with four to the right evenly spaced, and two pairs located adjacent to each other to the left. The stacking seen in the wireframe is unlikely to be perceived in reality due to the vegetation in the middle ground which provides some screening, but tips would still be perceptible. Turbine hubs would all be at a similar height to one another although not all would be seen due to screening.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) would be visible, however, groundworks would not be perceptible.
<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	ML would be most visible in combination with the consented Mynydd Carn y Cefn and operational schemes Pan Y Fan Ganol Farm. This would result in a low magnitude of change for Scenario A which is Not Significant.
<b>Level of Effect (A)</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Scenario B</b>	In addition to Scenario A, ML would be most visible in combination with Abertillery, Mynydd Maen and Manmoel would all be seen from this viewpoint also, and these three sites are in scoping. The combined effect of Scenario A and those in scoping would result in a medium magnitude of change for Scenario B which is Significant.
<b>Level of Effect (B)</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative, adverse and <b>Significant (B)</b> .

**Table EDP 1.21: PVP 20** Cinnabar Drive, Springfield, Pontllanfraith looking north-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 20</b> is an oblique view from a residential street in Pontllanfraith. Property boundary fencing makes up the foreground view, dwellings beyond follow the contours of the land. In the middle ground, terraced housing and nucleated development is seen in the valley bottom before medium scale agricultural land gently rises again up to a ridgeline in the middle distance. To the left and right of the frame, the wider landscape context is glimpsed with far distance hills partially visible in the background of the view. To the left, two existing turbines seen against the skyline, these are small in scale in the background of the view. To the right, in the far distance, pylons also break the skyline in the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 20</b> is c.7.9km from the nearest turbine proposed (T8).  The majority of the array would be visible in the background of the view and the field of view affected would be c.15 degrees at most. The full sweep of blades as well as some of the towers would be seen in an oblique view. They would appear evenly spread from this perspective and due to the elevation of the receptor and the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would not appear out scale or out of character in the background of the view, nor would they fundamentally alter the view due to the depth of field. Lower parts of the Proposed Development would be partially screened by intervening vegetation.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Low
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Medium
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) would be visible, however, groundworks would be difficult to discern from this distance and vegetation intervenes in the view.
<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	ML would be most visible in combination with operational schemes Coed y Gilfach Farm, Pan-y-Fan, Pen-y-Fan, and Oakdale. The consented Mynydd Carn y Cefn would also be perceptible. This would result in a medium magnitude of change at most for Scenario A which is Not Significant.
<b>Level of Effect (A)</b>	<b>Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Scenario B</b>	In addition to Scenario A, ML would be most visible in combination with, Mynydd Maen and Trecelyn, which are in scoping. The cumulative view NE towards ML would appear heavily affected by wind farm developments, and the scale most would be almost congruent to ML and seen in the background of the view. The proportion of the view affected overall would be substantial. The combined effect of Scenario A and those in planning and in scoping would result in a very high magnitude of change for Scenario B which is Significant.
<b>Level of Effect (B)</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative, adverse and <b>Significant</b> (B).

**Table EDP 1.22: PVP 21** Twmbarlwn summit looking north towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 21</b> is taken from Twmbarlwn Summit which is an elevated locally designated scenic viewpoint, and area of open access land. In the middle ground, a large managed plantation is seen across the width of the frame.
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	In the centre of the view, two existing turbines are seen in the background just below the skyline, and another turbine is seen to the far left of the view. Other vertical manmade features include pylons seen on the skyline to the right of the view in the far distance. Built form is infrequent as the settled valleys are not discernible from this elevation due to landform. The Site is located in proximity to the two existing turbines seen in the background of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 21</b> is c.8.1km from the nearest turbine proposed (T7).  The full array would be visible in front and to the right of the two existing turbines seen in the background of the view. The field of view affected by the Proposed Development would be c.11 degrees. The tips would break the skyline in this view, whereas the hubs and lower parts are likely to be seen against the backdrop of the hills in the far distance. The wireframe shows that the pattern of the array would be pretty orderly from this perspective. Turbines would appear as two groups of four; the group on the right would appear close together with blade tips partially overlapping. The group on the left would be more spaced out with minimal or no overlap of blades. The Proposed Development would not appear stacked as towers are sufficiently spaced apart in this view. The array would appear proportionate to the landscape in this view. The Proposed Development would form a new and recognisable element within the view, however, they are not considered to alter it fundamentally due to the distance and the extent of the view available from this PVP.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Medium
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction &amp; Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) would be visible, however, groundworks would be difficult to discern from this distance.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.23: PVP 22** The Bloreng Summit (BBNP) looking south-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 22</b> is an elevated view from The Bloreng, an area of open access land crossed by a mountain trail within the BBNP. The expansive view encompasses a large scale homogeneous and horizontal landscape with very few detractors. The Bloreng carpark and two radio masts are seen in the centre ground, to the right of the frame, and these are the most obvious manmade elements in the view. The foreground and middle ground are formed of open grassland which curves around in a bowl shape and falls away into a valley to the left of the frame which give the view a sense of vastness. Beyond this, in the background, are two ridgelines which fall away to the left of the frame. The ridgeline in the centre of the view includes pylons and masts which are discernible on the skyline in the distance. ML is located in the background of the view and the Site's near edge starts approximately three ridgelines away.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 22</b> is c.9.4km from the nearest turbine proposed (T1).  The full array would be visible in the background of the view from this location and the field of view affected would be c.10 degrees of the panorama. The wireframe shows that the pattern of the array would be fairly orderly from this perspective. Most of the blades and hubs would be visible at a distance and landform is likely to curtail views of full blade sweeps. The photomontage shows that the Proposed Development would be an obvious new addition to an otherwise horizontal and bare



	landscape, and the scale and extent of the Proposed Development would be considered to fundamentally alter the view.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	High
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Major</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) would be visible, however, groundworks would not.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.24: PVP 23** Cefn y Brithdir near New Tredegar looking east-south-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 23</b> is a long distance view from promoted route Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and an area of open access land. The elevated view comprises a rural landscape with human influences, from electricity poles to existing turbines, industrial and agricultural buildings. In the foreground, grassland and a track visible at the right edge of the frame and overhead cables cross the view. The pasture drops away into a valley in the middle ground of the view. The middle ground comprises a medium scale landscape with a mosaic of pasture, woodland and scrub. There is a single existing wind turbine along the slopes in the centre which breaks the skyline, and three more distant turbines are seen below the skyline (Pen y Fan Industrial Estate) to the right of the frame. In the background of the view, off centre to the left, two existing small wind turbines in the Sirhowy Valley, near Rocking Stone ( <b>PVP 19</b> ), are seen on the skyline some 3km from the viewer as the crow flies. ML is located a further 7km from the viewer as the crow flies. The Site sits behind the ridgelines in that form the backdrop of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 23</b> is c.10.8km from the nearest turbine proposed (T3).  The full array would be visible in the background of the view, and the field of view affected would be c.11 degrees of the panorama. The turbines would be evenly distributed and follow the landform. Their scale would be proportionate to the scale of the landscape, however, they would sit relatively high in the view as well as break the skyline. The Proposed Development would be a new and recognisable element of the view.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Medium
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) would be visible, however, groundworks would not.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	





**Table EDP 1.25: PVP 24** Rhymney Valley Ridge Walk west of Risca looking north-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 24</b> is another view from promoted route Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and an area of open access land. In the foreground, pasture grassland slopes away to some trees where the valley then becomes screened from view. In the middle ground is a domed hill with scrub and rough grassland slopes with grassland and solar panels visible along the crest of the hill. Beyond this, there is a ridgeline with a mosaic of grassland, scrub, fields lined with trees, and woodland. Two masts/cell towers are seen against the skyline on top of this ridgeline towards the centre of the frame. In the background of the view two existing turbines are seen in front of a hill in the far distance. The Site is located in the background of the view which sits behind the ridgelines seen in the middle distance.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 24</b> is c.11.4km from the nearest turbine proposed (T8).  The Proposed Development would be largely screened by landform from this perspective, with only the tips of the turbines likely to be visible in the background of the view. Vegetation in the middle distance would intervene in views towards the Proposed Development, and the upper parts such as hubs are likely to be screened completely. The Proposed Development would form a nominal addition to the view and given distance to the Proposed Development as well as the composition of this view, which is focussed on the middle ground, the Proposed Development would barely be discernible.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be glimpsed but it is considered unlikely.
<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	ML + Operational and Consented schemes would result in a low to very low magnitude of change for Scenario A as the addition of ML to this Scenario only constitutes a minor addition to the theoretical view. The cumulative effects are Not Significant.
<b>Level of Effect (A)</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> at most and (Not Significant)
<b>Scenario B</b>	The addition of wind farms in planning and in scoping to Scenario A would result in a medium magnitude of change for Scenario B overall. Although the majority of the Proposed Development appears at a sufficient distance to be a very small component of the view, the cumulative situation results in the skyline containing wind farm development across a considerable proportion of it. The overall cumulative change to the view would result in <b>Significant</b> cumulative effects, but it is clear that the proposed wind farm comprises approximately 10 <sup>0</sup> of the panoramic view available, and is thus a minor contributor to this effect.
<b>Level of Effect (B)</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative, adverse and <b>Significant</b> (B).



**Table EDP 1.26: PVP 25** Mynydd Llangatwg trig point (BBNP) looking south-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 25</b> is a panoramic view from a trig point in the BBNP. The elevated and expansive view is of a homogeneous and remote rugged landscape. Human influence is limited to settlement and infrastructure in the middle ground. The Site is situated out of view, behind the ridgeline in the distance which forms the backdrop of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 25</b> is c.12.1km from the nearest turbine proposed (T2).  The wireframe shows that only the blade tips of T1 and T2 would be just visible above the distant ridgeline within the view and the photomontage shows that the change to the baseline view as result of the Proposed Development would be nominal.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant.
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and Not Significant.
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	N/A
<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	Negligible. ML is barely perceptible and therefore it would not contribute much to cumulative views.
<b>Scenario B</b>	Negligible. ML is barely perceptible and therefore it would not contribute much to cumulative views.
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative, adverse and Not Significant (for A and B).

**Table EDP 1.27: PVP 26** Sugar Loaf trig point (BBNP) looking south-west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 26</b> is an expansive southerly view from the Sugar Loaf which is a scenic viewpoint and area of open access land within the BBNP.  The hills in the foreground are part of the Sugar Loaf. The middle ground comprises the Usk valley, with farmland and the settlements of Govilon seen off centre to the right and the edge of Llanfoist to the left. The Bloreng (location of <b>PVP 22</b> ) is seen on the ridgeline in the centre of the view and the two masts within the carpark are faintly visible on the skyline. The view to the left and right of the Bloreng is extensive and layered hilltops make up the view into the far distance. The Site is located to the right of the Bloreng and set behind the distant ridgeline which is seen on the horizon.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 26</b> is c.16.2km from the nearest turbine proposed (T2).  Tips and hubs of the majority of the Proposed Development would be visible in the background of the view and the field of view affected would be c.6 degrees of the panorama.  The photomontage shows that the full blade sweep of the majority of the array would not be obtainable, only the top parts of towers (for T2, T6 and T7) would be partially seen against the skyline. The formation of the array is slightly cluttered, with two turbines overlapping. There is a considerable distance between <b>PVP 26</b> and the nearest turbine. The photomontage does not take into account the weather, or





	atmospheric conditions which is likely to show the Proposed Development as less pronounced than the representative PVP, however, the PVP presented is likely to skew the scale to which the Proposed Development would likely to be perceived from this location. Based on the worst case PVP presented, e.g. on a clear day, when the suns glare or the overcast and changeable weather does not affect the view, the Proposed Development would form a new and recognisable element within the view and these would be viewed at a considerable distance.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and <b>Significant</b> .
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be glimpsed but it is considered unlikely from this distance.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.28: PVP 27** Mynydd Llangynidr (BBNP) looking south-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 27</b> is an open and panoramic view looking towards the south Wales valleys from the BBNP. The rugged land and near distance ridgeline in the foreground mark the edge of the BBNP that is visible from this PVP. The background of the view includes two main valleys, Ebbw Vale and Sirhowy, with lower lying settlement following the contours of the land. The landscape scale is vast due to the ruggedness and expanse of countryside visible in the view. The Site is located behind the ridges seen in the background of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 27</b> is c.16.7km from the nearest turbine proposed (T2).  Similar to <b>PVP 26</b> , tips and hubs of the majority of the Proposed Development would be perceptible in the background of the view and the field of view affected would be c.7 degrees of the panorama.  Only the towers of T3 and T4 would appear in the view and none of the turbine's full blade sweeps would be visible. Only the blades of T1, T6, T7, and T8 would be visible above the horizon and the hub of T2 would be seen. The Proposed Development would be at such a distance that they would appear to form only a small component within a view which is partly influenced by the settled valleys seen in the middle distance.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and <b>Significant</b>
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be glimpsed but would be barely noticeable if at all in the background of the view.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.29: PVP 28** Cefn yr Ystrad summit, Bannau Brycheiniog looking south-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 28</b> is a long distance and remote view across a rural and isolated landscape taken from the BBNP. The view is expansive with gently undulating homogenous grassland seen in the foreground across half of the frame. A short extent of distant ridgelines forms the backdrop of the view beyond the edge of the near distanced ridgeline. There is very little evidence of human influence within the view with the exception of cairns located at the right and left edged of the frame in the foreground. There is a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness in this rugged landscape. The Site is located in the background of the view in the far distance.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 28</b> is c.18.6km from the nearest turbine proposed (T2).  All turbines would be visible from this location, however, they would be at such a distance that they would form only a minor constituent of the view. They would be distributed relatively evenly with some overlapping of blades and following the visible topography.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and <b>Significant</b> .
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be glimpsed but would be barely noticeable if at all in the background of the view.
Cumulative Effects Not Considered.	

**Table EDP 1.30: PVP 29** Wye Valley National Landscape minor road north of Llanishen, looking west towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 29</b> is an oblique view from a minor road within the Wye Valley National Landscape. This is a scenic view across a gently rolling farmland pasture to distant South Wales Valleys beyond which form the backdrop of the view. A patchwork of field parcels bound by hedgerows and trees with buildings scattered amongst the fields are visible in the centre ground. Settlement around Pontypool is seen in the distance along the foothills of a distinctive shaped ridgeline. The Site is located to the right of the distinctive ridge, and further away in the background of the view.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 29</b> . The wireframe shows that the full array would be perceptible on the ridgeline in the background of the view, and the field of view affected would be c.6 degrees of the panorama. Full blade sweeps of the turbines would be visible along with towers from this perspective. The pattern of the array would be regular and proportionate to the scale of the receiving landscape. As a result of the distance and the extent of the view affected, the Proposed Development would form only a very minor constituent of the view. Furthermore, whilst the view would be slightly altered, it would be similar to the baseline.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very Low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be glimpsed but would be barely discernible in the background of the view.



<b>Cumulative Effects:</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	No Change. Very few Consented and Operational wind farm developments theoretically visible from this perspective. The wireframe shows the tips of Coed y Gilfach would be theoretically visible in the direction of the Site but existing vegetation intervenes and screens the view.
<b>Scenario B</b>	ML would form a minor constituent of the cumulative view in Scenario B. However, wind farm development would be seen on the skyline; and the most obvious from this perspective includes Mynydd Maen, Trecelyn and Abertillery. In combination with these wind farm developments, ML would 'fill a gap' between other windfarms seen on the horizon. The magnitude of change for Scenario B is considered medium as a result and the level of effect is Significant.
<b>Level of Effect (B)</b>	<b>Moderate</b> and <b>Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative, adverse and <b>Significant</b> (B).

**Table EDP 1.31: PVP 30** Craig y Fan Ddu (BBNP) taken from the Beacon Way looking south-east towards the Site.

<b>Baseline</b>	<b>PVP 30</b> is taken from promoted route, Beacon Way from within the BBNP. The view is formed of layers of ridges covered mostly with scrub and grassland, with some woodland visible along valley slopes. There is very limited human influence with the exception of quarry works in the centre ground and a blade tip of an existing turbine which is barely discernible in the far right in the background of the view and TV masts are seen on the horizon in the far left. There is a very strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness experienced from this location. The expansive view appears almost untouched by human activity. The Site is located in the background beyond the ridgelines that make up the horizon in this frame.
<b>At Operation</b>	<b>PVP 30</b> is c.24.5km from the nearest turbine proposed (T2).  The full array would just about be perceptible in the far distance and the field of view affected would be c.5 degrees of the panorama. The wireframe shows the pattern of the array; three turbines would be evenly distributed to the left of the grouping, two pairs stacked in the middle and one turbine alone to the right. Due to the distance, the stacking would likely go unnoticed, and the turbines would appear to be broadly well distributed on a clear day when most visible. They would be at such a distance (approximately 24.5km) and extent is such that they would be barely noticeable and although would slightly alter the view, the change would be very similar to the baseline.
<b>Sensitivity</b>	Very High
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	Very low
<b>Level of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate/Minor</b> and Not Significant
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), adverse and Not Significant
<b>At Construction and Decommissioning:</b>	Machinery movement (cranes) may be glimpsed but would be barely discernible in the background of the view.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	
<b>Scenario A</b>	The ZTV suggests up to 21 operational and consented wind farm developments are theoretically visible from this perspective. However, none of the operational wind farms are clearly discernible in the baseline photography. The additional change arising from the Proposed Development, would be seen in combination with Mynydd Carn y Cefn, a consented scheme. Given the distance in combination with additional change arising from an otherwise mostly uninterrupted landscape, the magnitude is



	considered low, and the addition of ML therefore significant in Scenario A, as a contribution.
<b>Level of Effect (A)</b>	<b>Moderate and Significant.</b>
<b>Scenario B</b>	<p>ML would form a minor constituent of the cumulative view in Scenario B. Wind farm development would be visible on the skyline in the far distance; and ML would be seen in combination with Abertillery, Mynydd Carn y Cefn, Mynydd Maen, and Trecelyn, and they would mostly read as one development. In combination with these wind farm developments, ML would again ‘fill a gap’ between other windfarms seen on the horizon. Further left and divorced from the concentration of wind farm developments seen in the vicinity of ML, Pen March would be partially visible.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for Scenario B in this view is considered to be low, with the combined effect with ML leading to an effect which is considered Significant overall. Whilst the overall effect is significant, the Proposed Development only comprises a minor constituent of the view, and in its own right is not significant.</p>
<b>Level of Effect (A)</b>	<b>Moderate and Significant</b>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Long term (reversible), direct, cumulative, adverse and <b>Significant (B)</b> .

### Summary of Visual Effects

- 1.12 The ZTV to tip overlaps with 28.5% of the 26km study area. **Figure 6.9** illustrates the ZTV which is based on bare earth modelling only. In reality, the visual envelope would be further reduced by intervening built form and vegetation. The PVP assessment above is a representative selection of the type of views available towards the Site from areas within the ZTV. As well as open views, there would be framed and filtered views in which the Proposed Development would be visible to a lesser degree. The scale and extent of the Proposed Development, together with the proportion and how it is likely to appear in the view has been considered together with the content of the baseline views to arrive at a predicted level of effect for each view.
- 1.13 Of the 30 PVPs assessed, **PVPs 1-16** are taken within 5km of the nearest turbine proposed. Within this band distance, 11 PVPs are found to have significant effects. Typically, the visual receptors closest to the Proposed Development, and particularly those within 5km of a large-scale wind farm development would be the worst affected. Within 5km, the lowest parts of the valleys tend to be outside of the ZTV. The road network and settlement pattern tend to be contained to these enclosed areas. This is true for the national cycle network also. Conversely, the plateaus are the most exposed parts of the landscape, and typically the highest elevations tend to be publicly accessible via open access land (OAL) and recreational routes.
- 1.14 Due to the exposed nature of the elevated landscape within 5km, close range views from plateaus tend to be uninterrupted and the main visual receptors are recreational users of rights of way and open access land. Views from valley slopes tend to be less open and filtered and there is a mix of settlement, isolated farms and intermittent plantations on the slopes. Views from valley slopes are typically characterised by the settled valley formation and other manmade features and this tends to reduce the sensitivity to development from some perspectives.



- 1.15 The impacts found within 0-5km of the Site range from **major** adverse to **no effect**. Beyond 5km **Figure 6.9** illustrates that the visual envelope reduces substantially as a result of landform alone.
- 1.16 **PVPs 17-22** are taken within 5km-10km (of the nearest turbine proposed). Available vantage points tend to be from the valley slopes orientated towards the Site. Three PVPs were found to have significant effects within 5-10km. The ZTV which is based on bare earth illustrates valley sides within the ZTV, and the pattern of the ZTV is loosely distributed to the east and west. These areas include built form as well as some areas of open access land. However, some elevated and open views from trig points in the north-east within this band resulted in some elevated effects. For instance, **PVP 22** from The Blorenge (BBNP) and **PVP 18** from a PRoW and area of open access land within Blaenavon World Heritage Site are both considered highly sensitive, and the respective level of effects were found to be **Major** and **Major/Moderate** and **Significant**.
- 1.17 The impacts found within the 5-10km of the Site range from **Major** to **Minor/Negligible** adverse and **Significant** to Not Significant. There are areas with no affects within this band which were not represented by the PVP assessment.
- 1.18 **PVPs 23, 24** and **25** are taken from 10-15km. These represent two views from a promoted route and one view a trig point within BBNP. A **Moderate** adverse **Significant** effect was found for **PVP 23** from the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk whereas the other two PVPs were found to have minor and no effects as a result of the field of view affected and/ or the extent to which the Proposed Development would be seen was imperceptible.
- 1.19 **PVPs 26-30** are taken from within 15-26km. **PVP 29** represents a view from the Wye Valley National Landscape, and the rest represent views from the National Park. Those from the BBNP are the elevated views from largely remote areas and trig points range from 550m aOD to 675m aOD. **PVP 30** also represents a promoted route view, the Beacon Way.
- 1.20 The impacts found within the 15-26km of the Site range from **Moderate** to **Minor** adverse and **Significant** to Not Significant. There are views within this band with no effects which were not represented by the PVP assessment.
- 1.21 Overall, the viewpoint analysis of the Proposed Development found that of the 30 PVPs assessed, 18 PVPs were found to have significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development assessed herein.
- 1.22 The furthest significant effect recorded from when the Proposed Development was considered in isolation is **PVP 28** which is located c.18.7km to the north-west of T2. The magnitude of change was deemed low as although the Proposed Development would be a very small addition to the view and the field of view affected would be approximately 7 degrees, the baseline view does not contain any other man-made elements. Nonetheless, this is considered a very high sensitivity receptor therefore the level of effect is deemed moderate adverse and significant. **PVPs 16, 22, 25, 27** and **28** are all taken from the BBNP, and they are all relatively close to the



southern boundary of the National Park. There are views in which other types of development would be seen in combination with the Proposed Development, however, **PVP 28** was the exception.

- 1.23 The viewpoint analysis of the Proposed Development alone resulted in 11 PVPs with Not Significant effects. These viewpoints were then carried forward for consideration in the cumulative visual assessment. The cumulative visual analysis was carried out for the following PVPs: **PVP 7, PVP 9, PVP 13, PVP 14, PVP 17, PVP 19, PVP 20, PVP 24, PVP 25, PVP 29** and **PVP 30**. Of these, seven PVPs resulted in **Significant** cumulative visual effects, and these relate to both scenarios whereby ML was considered in combination with operational and consented wind farm developments, plus those in planning and in scoping.
- 1.24 **Appendix 6K** sets out the schedule of night-time effects and it concludes that no significant effects upon visual amenity as a result of aviation lights on each turbine proposed is predicted to occur from the PVPs included within the assessment.
- 1.25 **Appendix 6L** sets out the visual effects on the receptor groups using Promoted Routes and National Cycle Routes. It concludes, there would be no significant effects for users of Promoted Routes and National Cycle Network Routes, as generally, the proportion of a given route that overlaps with the study area and the ZTV is relatively small, with the exception of the Rhymney Valley Ridge Walk, and specific views have been included in the PVP assessment as a result.
- 1.26 **Appendix 6M** sets out the schedule of effects for residential visual amenity within 2km of the Site. RVAA PVPS have been produced purely as a visual aid to the RVAA and they have not been assessed as part of the LVIA. The RVAA concluded that there would be significant effects for some of the residential receptors assessed within 2km, and particularly for those on elevated land with front facing elevations orientated towards the Site.